



**COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
REPORT OF STATE OF MIZORAM**

YOUTH PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM

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FOREWARD

The state of Mizoram stands as a beacon of democratic resilience and conflict resolution within the complex geopolitical landscape of South Asia. Tucked into the strategic high altitudes of Northeast India and sharing expansive international borders with neighboring nations, this region has masterfully converted historical adversity into a bedrock for enduring stability. The Comprehensive Development Framework Report of the State of Mizoram captures this remarkable historical trajectory with absolute precision. It offers a visionary blueprint that harnesses the exceptional literacy metrics, the highly disciplined community structures, and the profound ecological wealth of the state to ignite a new era of inclusive economic expansion.

The civilizational narrative of the Mizo people is uniquely defined by the ethos of egalitarianism, mutual support, and a profound, historical connection to their ancestral landscape. The concept of Tlawmngaihna, which places the collective good above individual self interest, is not merely a cultural artifact but a highly functional social safety net. Any forward looking economic model must respect and utilize this heritage. True modernization should never require the dilution of indigenous identity or the dismantling of community cohesion. The framework presented in these pages brilliantly addresses this balance. It identifies sustainable pathways in sectors such as advanced bamboo processing, high yield floriculture, eco tourism, and specialized horticulture. By championing these specific industries, the state can generate substantial domestic revenue and create high value exports while simultaneously preserving its vital ecological sanctuaries and cultural integrity.

This document provides a highly meticulous roadmap for achieving that delicate equilibrium between growth and preservation. It proposes legal and economic frameworks that protect traditional community systems and customary land rights, while simultaneously creating a highly attractive environment for modern corporate investment and entrepreneurial ventures. It outlines how capital can be deployed to uplift communities rather than displace them. By focusing on localized value addition, the raw materials produced in Mizoram can be processed within the state, thereby retaining wealth and creating secondary employment opportunities for the local population.

At the Youth Peace and Development Forum (YPD FORUM), we operate on the fundamental conviction that youth empowerment serves as the ultimate guarantor of both social harmony and long term economic vitality. Mizoram provides an incredibly profound case study to support this central thesis. The historic peace initiatives of the late twentieth century succeeded primarily because they restored political agency to the people and successfully integrated formerly isolated factions into the broader democratic framework of the republic. Today, securing and expanding that vital legacy requires providing the younger demographic with robust, tangible avenues for professional, creative, and intellectual advancement.

The transition from a traditional agrarian base to a sophisticated, knowledge driven economy demands aggressive and targeted investments in digital infrastructure, advanced skill development, and top tier higher education.

By mitigating financial risks for small enterprises, incentivizing higher educational attainment, and ensuring that infrastructural development reaches the most geographically isolated districts, the framework creates a solid, unshakeable foundation for sustainable stability. Furthermore, the sustainability of any governance model relies heavily on the continuous cultivation of trust between the state administrative machinery and its citizens. Administrative transparency, decentralized economic planning, and highly accessible public services form the absolute bedrock of any successful development paradigm. The methodologies detailed throughout this comprehensive review offer highly pragmatic and actionable solutions for enhancing bureaucratic efficiency. They ensure that financial allocations and developmental projects reach the most remote and marginalized villages without administrative leakage. When public institutions operate with total accountability and transparency, they reinforce the very fabric of peace and civic duty among the general population.

This comprehensive framework stands as a critical and timely contribution to the broader academic and policy literature on regional planning and frontier state economics. It equips key decision makers, academic researchers, and local community leaders with the precise analytical insights required to navigate the myriad complexities of the coming decades. Most importantly, it completely shifts the strategic perspective of the region. It moves the narrative away from viewing Mizoram as an isolated geographical periphery and accurately repositions it as a vibrant, strategic gateway for international trade, cultural diplomacy, and regional integration. By fully leveraging policies aimed at eastern integration, Mizoram can transform its borders from barriers into bustling bridges of commerce and cultural exchange.

I deeply appreciate the rigorous scholarship, the extensive empirical research, and the highly consultative grassroots processes that shaped this vital document. The authors have managed to synthesize complex economic theory with the lived realities of the people, producing a document that is as academically sound as it is practically applicable. It is my firm belief that with dedicated, unwavering implementation by all stakeholders involved, this blueprint will guide Mizoram toward a highly prosperous, fiercely equitable, and globally dynamic future.

Dheeraj G. N.
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Youth Peace and Development (YPD) Forum
New Delhi

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This report forms part of a larger national initiative undertaken through the Council for Comprehensive Development Frameworks (CDF Council), constituted by the YPD Forum to facilitate the fast-track preparation of comprehensive development frameworks for all 28 States of India. The Council represents the Forum's commitment to promoting evidence-based policymaking, strategic planning, and long-term developmental thinking across the nation.

The Forum places on record its deep appreciation to **Dheeraj GN**, Chairman of the Youth Peace and Development Forum, for his vision, leadership, and initiative in conceptualizing and guiding this ambitious project. The Forum also extends its heartfelt thanks to **Aravind Saj**, Vice Chairman of the Youth Peace and Development Forum, for his constant support and encouragement throughout the execution of this initiative.

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The Forum acknowledges the commitment, intellectual curiosity, and sense of responsibility demonstrated by each member of the Council. Through research, analysis, discussion, drafting, review, and continuous engagement with developmental issues, these members contributed significantly to the realization of the Council's objectives. Their willingness to dedicate their time and talents to a national developmental initiative reflects a commendable spirit of public service and constructive citizenship.

The Forum also recognizes that the preparation of a comprehensive development framework requires engagement with a wide range of ideas, perspectives, and sources of knowledge. Accordingly, sincere appreciation is extended to all researchers, academicians, policy experts,

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The Forum further extends its appreciation to all well-wishers, supporters, advisors, and stakeholders who encouraged this initiative and contributed to its successful completion. Whether through guidance, feedback, consultation, or moral support, their contributions helped strengthen the quality and relevance of this work.

This report represents more than a policy document; it reflects a collective effort to envision a better future. It is the product of shared aspirations, collaborative research, and a common belief that informed planning and constructive dialogue can contribute to meaningful social, economic, and institutional progress. While the recommendations contained herein are intended to support the development of Mizoram, they also form part of a broader national effort to strengthen the foundations of a developed, inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous India.

As India advances towards the centenary of its independence in 2047, the Youth Peace and Development Forum remains committed to fostering research, dialogue, and innovation in support of national development. It is hoped that this report will serve as a useful resource for policymakers, administrators, researchers, civil society organizations, industry leaders, and citizens, and that it will contribute meaningfully to the ongoing pursuit of inclusive growth, good governance, and sustainable development.

With gratitude to all who contributed to this endeavour, the Youth Peace and Development Forum proudly presents this report as a modest contribution towards the shared vision of a stronger Mizoram and a developed India.

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Preface

Mizoram is not a state that fits comfortably into the standard vocabulary of Indian development planning, and this is precisely why a dedicated Comprehensive Development Framework is warranted rather than a reproduction of frameworks built for Kerala or Maharashtra with cosmetic changes.

Consider three facts together. First, Mizoram's literacy rate stood at 91.33 percent at the 2011 Census, the second highest among Indian states after Kerala, with female literacy nearly on par with male literacy (Government of India, 2011). Second, its Human Development Index value has been estimated at approximately 0.810 for 2023, placing it among the higher-ranked states nationally (Government of India, 2011; state HDI estimates, 2023). Third, its Gross State Domestic Product remains one of the smallest in absolute terms among Indian states, with a nominal GSDP estimated at roughly ₹43,817 crore for 2026 and a workforce still substantially dependent on jhum, or shifting, cultivation and allied primary activities (Government of Mizoram, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, 2026). This combination, high human development alongside a narrow and fragile economic base, is the central analytical puzzle that this framework tries to address.

The state's geography compounds the challenge. Mizoram is almost entirely hilly, with over ninety percent of its land under forest or hill terrain unsuitable for conventional plough agriculture, and it shares a long international border with Myanmar and a shorter one with Bangladesh. This has made it strategically important to the Government of India's Act East Policy while also exposing it to cross-border population movements, most visibly the large influx of Chin refugees from Myanmar since the 2021 military coup there, which has placed additional strain on the state's health, education, and law and order systems even as it has not been formally counted in any Census (Government of Mizoram, Home Department communications, 2023 to 2026).

At the same time, Mizoram possesses institutional and social assets that few other Indian states can claim. Its traditional Village Councils, formalized under the Mizoram (Village Councils) Act, function as the base tier of local governance and enjoy a legitimacy that is often deeper than that of Panchayati Raj Institutions in mainland states, even though the 73rd Constitutional Amendment does not apply to Mizoram in the same manner because of the state's Sixth Schedule and Article 371G protections. Civil society bodies such as the Young Mizo Association, the Mizo Zirlai Pawl (student body), and various church denominations exercise a level of social coordination capacity, in matters ranging from prohibition enforcement to disaster response to anti-drug campaigns, that is rarely replicated elsewhere in India.

This framework is organized around the twenty-one chapter structure used previously for the Kerala and Maharashtra Comprehensive Development Frameworks, covering state profile, fiscal architecture, economic structure, investment climate, education, health, social justice, infrastructure across transport, energy, water and sanitation, urban and rural development, environment, climate resilience, governance reform, digital transformation, innovation,

agriculture, tourism, cross-cutting themes, and a Vision 2047 roadmap. Within each chapter, the approach is consistent: establish the current empirical position using the latest verifiable data, benchmark Mizoram against national averages and comparable Northeastern and hill states, identify the structural constraints specific to Mizoram's geography, demography, and institutional context, and translate this diagnosis into sequenced, costed, and implementable recommendations aligned with the state's own Vision documents and with national frameworks including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Finance Commission awards, and the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme.

A caveat that recurs throughout this document deserves to be stated plainly at the outset. Because the 2021 Census has not been conducted as of mid-2026, several demographic figures in this framework are necessarily projections rather than enumerated counts. Wherever this is the case, the source and methodology of the projection is stated, and the reader should treat such figures as indicative rather than final until the Census is completed.

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Executive Summary

Mizoram enters the period 2026 to 2047 as a state with an unusual asset profile. Its human capital indicators, literacy, school completion, gender parity, and health outcomes among the resident Mizo population, are strong by national standards, while its economic base remains narrow, dependent on Union transfers, and vulnerable to the topographical, seismic, and cross-border pressures that define life in a small Sixth Schedule hill state on India's eastern frontier.

This Comprehensive Development Framework sets out a twenty-one chapter diagnosis of Mizoram's development situation as of 2026, followed by a Vision 2047 roadmap. Six themes recur across the chapters that follow.

First, fiscal dependence. Mizoram's own tax revenue covers a small share of its expenditure, with the state relying heavily on central tax devolution and grants-in-aid under Article 275(1) and special category state provisions, a dependence that shapes almost every other chapter of this framework, from infrastructure financing to social sector spending capacity.

Second, human development strength alongside labour market weakness. Mizoram's literacy and school enrolment outcomes are strong, but formal sector employment generation has not kept pace with the number of educated young people entering the labour force each year, producing a visible pattern of graduate underemployment and outmigration to Guwahati, Delhi, Bengaluru, and beyond.

Third, agrarian transition. The state's traditional jhum cultivation system, while ecologically adapted to the hill terrain over generations, is increasingly unsustainable at current population densities and is the subject of an ongoing state policy effort to promote New Land Use Policy schemes for settled horticulture, particularly of Mizoram's signature crops such as ginger, turmeric, Mizo chilli (bird's eye chilli), passion fruit, and oil palm.

Fourth, connectivity and infrastructure deficits. Mizoram's hill terrain makes road construction and maintenance costly per kilometre, its rail connectivity remains limited despite the completion of the Bairabi to Sairang line, and its single functioning airport at Lengpui serves as the primary air link for the entire state.

Fifth, climate and disaster vulnerability. Landslides, flash floods, and seismic risk (Mizoram lies in Seismic Zone V, the highest hazard category in India's seismic zoning map) pose recurring threats to lives, infrastructure, and agricultural livelihoods, a vulnerability that this framework argues must be treated as a cross-cutting planning constraint rather than a standalone environmental chapter.

Sixth, institutional distinctiveness. Mizoram's Sixth Schedule and Article 371G protections, its Village Council system, and its strong church and civil society architecture together create a governance environment that is different in kind, not just in degree, from most Indian states,

and any development framework that does not account for this will misread both the state's constraints and its comparative advantages.

The chapters that follow examine each of these themes in depth, and the concluding Vision 2047 chapter translates the diagnosis into a medium-term (2025 to 2030) priority action plan alongside a longer-horizon strategic roadmap, with attention to financing strategy, Centre-State partnership mechanisms, and a monitoring and accountability architecture appropriate to Mizoram's administrative scale.

Chapter 1: State Profile — Geography, Demography and Society

1.1 Geographic and Ecological Characteristics of the State

Mizoram is located in the far south of India's Northeastern region, bordered by Myanmar's Chin State to the east and south, Bangladesh to the west, and the Indian states of Assam, Manipur, and Tripura to the north. It covers a geographical area of approximately 21,081 square kilometres, making it one of the smaller Indian states in area, and its terrain is overwhelmingly hilly, with a series of roughly north-south trending ranges separated by narrow river valleys, the elevation generally rising from west to east and culminating in peaks exceeding 2,000 metres near the Myanmar border, such as Phawngpui (the Blue Mountain).

The state's ecology is defined by its location within the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, one of the most species-rich and globally significant biodiversity zones recognized by Conservation International. Mizoram's forest cover is exceptionally high relative to other Indian states; successive India State of Forest Report editions published by the Forest Survey of India have consistently placed Mizoram among the states with the highest percentage of geographical area under forest cover, though the state has also recorded net forest cover decline in recent assessment cycles, a trend attributed primarily to the shortening jhum cultivation cycle. Under traditional shifting cultivation, a plot of forest is cleared, cultivated for one or two years, and then left fallow for a recovery period that historically extended to ten years or more; population pressure and land scarcity have progressively shortened this fallow period in many parts of the state, reducing the soil's capacity to regenerate and contributing to visible land degradation in the more densely settled central districts.

The Mizoram river system is dominated by the Tlawng, Tut, Tuirial, and Tuivawl rivers in the north, draining into the Barak system in Assam, and the Chhimtui (Kolodyne) river in the south, which flows through Myanmar territory before re-entering it, a geographically unusual pattern that has occasional cross-border water management implications. None of Mizoram's rivers are navigable for significant commercial cargo, which is one reason the state's freight logistics remain almost entirely road dependent, a constraint discussed further in Chapter 8.

Mizoram's climate is classified as humid subtropical with strong monsoon influence, receiving heavy rainfall between May and September, with average annual precipitation in the Aizawl district area exceeding 2,000 millimetres in many years and considerably higher totals recorded in the more exposed western and southern districts. This rainfall intensity, combined with steep slopes and geologically young, often poorly consolidated hill soils, is the principal driver of the landslide risk discussed in Chapter 14.

1.2 Administrative Divisions: Districts, Divisions and Sub-State Units

As of 2026, Mizoram is divided into eleven districts, following a series of district reorganizations undertaken over the past decade that split several of the original eight districts to bring administration closer to the population. These are Aizawl, Lunglei, Champhai, Mamit, Kolasib, Serchhip, Saitual, Khawzawl, Hnahthial, Lawngtlai, and Siaha (Government of Mizoram, 2026). Aizawl district, containing the state capital of the same name, remains by far the most populous, with a district population recorded at approximately 1,023,678 in 2023 estimates and a population density of around 286 persons per square kilometre, substantially higher than the state average given that Aizawl city itself houses close to a third of the state's total population (Government of Mizoram, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, 2023).

The southern and eastern districts, Lawngtlai and Siaha in particular, remain comparatively remote, less densely populated, and home to significant populations of the Chakma, Mara, and Lai communities alongside the Mizo (Lusei and cognate sub-tribes) majority found across the rest of the state. Siaha district's headquarters town serves the Mara Autonomous District Council area, one of three Autonomous District Councils constituted under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, the other two being the Lai Autonomous District Council, headquartered at Lawngtlai, and the Chakma Autonomous District Council, headquartered at Kamalanagar. These three Autonomous District Councils represent an important sub-state tier of governance unique to Mizoram among most Indian states, possessing legislative, judicial, and executive powers over specified subjects within their territorial jurisdiction, and any development framework for Mizoram must treat them as semi-autonomous planning units rather than simply as administrative subdivisions of the state government.

Below the district level, Mizoram's rural administration is organized through Village Councils rather than the three-tier Panchayati Raj system found in most Indian states, since the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act does not extend to Mizoram by virtue of Article 243M(2), which exempts states covered under Part X of the Constitution (the Sixth Schedule areas) and certain hill areas from its application. Village Councils, elected under the Mizoram (Village Councils) Act, 2007 (as amended), handle a range of local functions including land allocation, dispute resolution, and coordination with Village Development Boards for scheme implementation. Aizawl city itself is governed by the Aizawl Municipal Corporation, constituted in 2010, while smaller towns fall under Town Councils and, more recently, an increasing number of newly constituted Urban Local Bodies as the state's Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Department has extended municipal status to a wider set of urbanizing centres.

1.3 Demographic Structure: Population, Density, Growth and Composition

Because the 2021 Census has not been conducted, Mizoram's current population must be estimated using projections built on 2011 Census base data and subsequent growth trends. The 2011 Census recorded Mizoram's population at 1,097,206 persons, comprising 555,339 males and 541,867 females, giving a sex ratio of 976 females per 1,000 males, notably more favourable to women than the all-India sex ratio of 943 recorded in the same Census

(Government of India, 2011). Projections built on the observed 2001 to 2011 decadal growth rate of approximately 22.8 percent, moderated for an expected deceleration in natural growth typical of high-literacy, low-fertility populations, place Mizoram's 2026 population in the range of approximately 1.27 to 1.31 million persons, with slightly more males than females projected given differential migration patterns (Government of India, Census projections; independent demographic estimates, 2026). This figure should be read as indicative; only the next Census will confirm the actual count, which some observers believe may be affected upward by the presence of an undetermined but substantial number of Myanmar nationals who have entered Mizoram since 2021 but who are not counted as usual residents for Census purposes.

Mizoram's population distribution is unusually urbanized for a hill state, with slightly over half the population, approximately 52 percent as of the 2011 Census, classified as urban, a figure that likely understates the true degree of urbanization because Census definitions of "urban" do not always capture large, densely settled but administratively rural settlements common in Mizoram's terrain (Government of India, 2011). Urban population growth between 2001 and 2011 was recorded at approximately 29.65 percent, considerably outpacing rural population growth of around 17.4 percent over the same decade, a pattern consistent with continued rural-to-urban migration, particularly toward Aizawl.

Age structure data, again drawing on 2011 Census figures adjusted for subsequent trends, shows Mizoram to be a relatively youthful state, though with a declining child population share as fertility rates have fallen; the 2011 Census recorded the 0 to 6 age cohort at approximately 15.36 percent of the total population, with a child sex ratio of 970 females per 1,000 males, again more favourable than most Indian states (Government of India, 2011). The demographic profile suggests Mizoram is roughly midway through its demographic transition, with a widening working-age cohort presenting both an opportunity, if matched by employment generation, and a risk, if the state's narrow formal labour market cannot absorb new entrants.

1.4 Linguistic, Ethnic, Religious and Cultural Profile

Mizoram's population is overwhelmingly composed of Mizo people, an umbrella term for a cluster of closely related Tibeto-Burman tribal communities including the Lusei, Hmar, Paite, Ralte, and several others, who together form the dominant ethnic and linguistic group across most of the state. Mizo (Duhlian or Lusei-based standard Mizo) serves as the state's principal language of administration, education, and daily life, alongside English, which is widely used in higher education, formal administration, and business. Literacy in Mizo is nearly universal among the tribal population, supported by a strong tradition of Mizo-language publishing, church literature, and broadcasting.

The southern and eastern reaches of the state are home to distinct tribal communities, the Chakma, a Buddhist community concentrated in western and southern Mizoram, the Mara (Lakher) people concentrated around Siaha, and the Lai (Pawi) people concentrated around Lawngtlai, each possessing its own Autonomous District Council as described in Section 1.2

and its own distinct language and cultural traditions, in addition to smaller communities including the Bru (Reang), a significant number of whom were historically displaced from Mizoram to relief camps in Tripura following ethnic tensions in the late 1990s, with resettlement processes continuing into the 2020s under Central Government-brokered agreements.

Religiously, Mizoram is one of the most religiously homogeneous states in India, with Christianity practised by approximately 87 percent of the population according to the 2011 Census, spread across a number of denominations including the Presbyterian Church of India (Mizoram Synod), the Baptist Church of Mizoram, the Roman Catholic Church, the United Pentecostal Church, and the Salvation Army, among others (Government of India, 2011). Hinduism, practised by roughly 2.75 percent of the population and concentrated among Bru and some other communities, and Buddhism, practised mainly by the Chakma community, form the principal minority religious groups.

The centrality of the church in Mizoram's social life cannot be overstated when assessing development outcomes. Church-run schools historically formed the backbone of the state's education system prior to and even alongside government expansion, church-affiliated organizations continue to play an active role in social welfare, disaster response, and moral and civic mobilization campaigns (including sustained anti-alcohol and anti-drug advocacy), and Sunday observance shapes weekly economic rhythms across the state to an extent uncommon elsewhere in India. Any development intervention in Mizoram, whether in health messaging, financial inclusion, or civic participation campaigns, achieves far greater traction when designed in partnership with church networks and the Young Mizo Association than when designed purely through conventional government-to-citizen channels.

1.5 Human Development Index: State Ranking and Trend Analysis

Mizoram consistently ranks among the higher-performing Indian states on human development metrics, a pattern that predates and continues into the current planning period. State-level HDI estimates place Mizoram's index value at approximately 0.810 for 2023, ranking it around ninth among Indian states and territories, a notable achievement for a state with Mizoram's modest per capita income when set against the income-driven expectations of a conventional development trajectory (state HDI estimates, 2023). This reflects the index's construction, which averages health, education, and income dimensions; Mizoram's health and education sub-indices consistently outperform its income sub-index, the reverse of the pattern seen in several higher-GSDP but lower human-development mainland states.

The historical drivers of this outcome include the near-universal reach of church-run and later government schools even in remote hill villages, a cultural emphasis on literacy and education across gender lines, and health outcomes benefiting from high literacy's well-documented association with better health-seeking behaviour, antenatal care uptake, and child nutrition practices, even in a state with a genuinely constrained public health infrastructure discussed in Chapter 6.

Trend analysis across successive HDI estimation rounds shows Mizoram's index value improving steadily but at a decelerating rate typical of states approaching a development ceiling on the education and health dimensions, meaning further HDI gains will increasingly depend on income dimension improvements, that is, on the economic growth and diversification agenda discussed in Chapters 3 and 4, rather than on further marginal gains in literacy or life expectancy where the state is already close to a practical maximum.

1.6 Poverty, Inequality and Multidimensional Deprivation Indices

Mizoram's poverty headcount ratio has fallen substantially over the past decade and a half and now stands among the lowest of any Indian state, with recent estimates placing the population below the poverty line at approximately 3.77 percent as of 2023, though the reader should note that poverty estimation for Mizoram, as for most Northeastern states, carries wider confidence intervals than for larger mainland states owing to smaller survey sample sizes (state poverty estimates, 2023). NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index exercises, based on National Family Health Survey rounds, have similarly shown Mizoram among the better-performing states on multidimensional deprivation, with relatively low deprivation on health and education indicators but continued pockets of deprivation on standard-of-living indicators such as cooking fuel, housing material, and asset ownership in the more remote southern and eastern districts.

Within-state inequality in Mizoram is comparatively muted relative to mainland Indian states, reflecting both the state's tribal land tenure system, under which land is customarily held by the community or Village Council rather than through the concentrated private landholding patterns seen elsewhere, and the redistributive social function historically played by church and community institutions. However, this should not obscure real disparities between Aizawl, which concentrates government employment, private commerce, and infrastructure investment, and the more remote districts, particularly Lawngtlai and Siaha, where deprivation on standard-of-living indicators remains comparatively higher, a pattern examined further in Section 1.7.

1.7 Intra-State Disparities: Aspirational Districts and Backward Region Identification

The Government of India's Aspirational Districts Programme, launched in 2018 to identify and fast-track development in the country's most underdeveloped districts using a composite of health, education, agriculture, financial inclusion, and infrastructure indicators, includes two Mizoram districts, historically Mamit and one of the southern districts, reflecting the persistent gap between the Aizawl-centred core and the state's periphery. Programme monitoring data through 2025 and into 2026 has shown improvement across most tracked indicators in these districts, though from a lower base than the state average, consistent with the broader national pattern under the programme.

The NITI Aayog North Eastern Region District SDG Index, released in its second edition in July 2025, offers a more granular and current picture of intra-state disparity. Notably,

Mizoram achieved a distinction shared with only two other Northeastern states, Sikkim and Tripura, of having every one of its constituent districts classified in the "Front Runner" category, meaning every district scored between 65 and 99 out of 100 on the composite SDG index (NITI Aayog, 2025). Hnahthial district recorded the highest score of any district across the entire Northeastern region at 81.43, followed closely by Champhai at 79.8 (NITI Aayog, 2025). At the same time, the same report flagged Mizoram, alongside Nagaland, as having a wider intra-state disparity between its best and weakest-performing districts than most other Northeastern states, with a gap of 13.72 points between the highest and lowest scoring Mizoram districts (NITI Aayog, 2025). This finding is significant for this framework because it demonstrates that Mizoram's strong aggregate SDG performance coexists with a real and measurable internal gradient, generally running from the Aizawl-Champhai-Hnahthial core toward the more peripheral southern and western districts, that state planning must continue to address rather than treat as resolved simply because the state as a whole performs well nationally.

1.8 State's Position in National Rankings Across Key Development Indicators

Taken together, the indicators reviewed in this chapter place Mizoram in a distinctive and somewhat contradictory position within the national development landscape. On human capital indicators, literacy, gender parity in education, HDI, and poverty headcount, Mizoram ranks at or near the top tier of Indian states. On economic scale indicators, absolute GSDP, per capita formal sector employment, and industrial base, it ranks near the bottom, reflecting its small population, limited arable land, and considerable distance from major national and international markets. On fiscal indicators, discussed in depth in Chapter 2, Mizoram ranks among the most Union-transfer-dependent states, a structural feature shared with most Special Category and Sixth Schedule states rather than a state-specific policy failure. On infrastructure connectivity, discussed in Chapter 8, Mizoram ranks poorly on road density adjusted for terrain difficulty, rail access, and port or waterway access, though its position has been improving with recent National Highway and rail investments.

This combination, strong human development, weak economic scale, high fiscal dependence, and constrained physical connectivity, is not unique to Mizoram among Sixth Schedule Northeastern states, but the degree to which Mizoram combines very high human development with very low economic scale is unusual even within this group, and it is this specific combination that the remaining twenty chapters of this framework are designed to address, chapter by chapter, from the fiscal architecture that constrains the state's own resource base, through the economic and industrial strategies that could diversify its growth model, to the sector-specific chapters on education, health, infrastructure, environment, and governance that together determine whether Mizoram's human capital advantage can be converted into a broader and more resilient prosperity over the next two decades.

Chapter 2: Fiscal Architecture of the State

2.1 Revenue Framework: Own Tax Revenue, Non-Tax Revenue and Devolution

Mizoram's revenue framework is defined, more than almost any other single feature of the state's public finances, by its overwhelming dependence on transfers from the Union Government. For 2025-26, total revenue receipts were estimated at approximately Rs 12,948 crore, of which the state's own resources contributed only around Rs 2,616 crore, or roughly 20 percent, while the remaining 80 percent came from the Centre in the form of tax devolution and grants (PRS Legislative Research, 2025). Within this Centre-derived share, the state's share in central taxes alone accounted for approximately 55 percent of total revenue receipts and grants for a further 25 percent in 2025-26 (PRS Legislative Research, 2025).

This structure persists into the 2026-27 budget, presented by Chief Minister Lalduhoma, who also holds the finance portfolio, in February 2026. The state's own tax revenue for 2026-27 is estimated at Rs 1,619 crore, an increase of 5 percent over the revised estimate for 2025-26, but this still amounts to only 3.7 percent of GSDP, itself a decline from 3.9 percent of GSDP in the revised estimate for the preceding year (PRS Legislative Research, 2026). The principal sources of own tax revenue in Mizoram are State Goods and Services Tax collections, State Excise (constrained by the state's long-standing prohibition policy, discussed further in Section 2.7), taxes on vehicles, stamp duty and registration fees, and taxes on electricity, none of which generate the kind of buoyant, broad-based revenue base available to larger, more industrialized or more urbanized states.

Non-tax revenue in Mizoram remains similarly modest, drawn primarily from interest receipts, dividends from state undertakings, forestry receipts, and departmental fees, and it has historically formed a small share of total receipts, well below the levels seen in resource-rich or larger-market states. The state's own-source revenue effort, when benchmarked against its GSDP, therefore continues to sit well below the all-India average for non-special category states, a pattern common to all Sixth Schedule and Special Category states but one that nonetheless constrains Mizoram's fiscal autonomy and its capacity to fund non-formula-based, locally prioritized expenditure.

Central tax devolution is where the greatest single revenue movement in Mizoram's 2026-27 budget appears. Following the recommendations of the Sixteenth Finance Commission, Mizoram's share in horizontal devolution rose to 0.564 percent, and the state is expected to receive Rs 8,608.08 crore as its share of central taxes and duties in 2026-27, an increase of Rs 976.80 crore over what would have accrued under the Fifteenth Finance Commission award (Chief Minister Lalduhoma, as reported in *nenow.in*, 2026). This single revenue line, tax devolution, now exceeds the state's entire revenue receipts base from just three years earlier, illustrating how sensitive Mizoram's fiscal position is to Finance Commission cycles rather than to its own economic performance.

2.2 Expenditure Profile: Composition, Quality and Efficiency

Mizoram's expenditure is dominated by revenue expenditure, and within revenue expenditure, by committed expenditure, namely salaries, pensions, and interest payments, which the Comptroller and Auditor General's State Finances Audit Report for the year ended 31 March 2023 found constituted between 63 and 70 percent of revenue expenditure across the period 2018-19 to 2022-23, rising from 64.90 percent in 2018-19 to 66.66 percent in 2022-23 (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2024). In absolute terms, committed expenditure rose from Rs 4,871.42 crore in 2018-19 to Rs 6,727.78 crore in 2022-23, an average annual increase of approximately 14.27 percent, driven substantially by periodic dearness allowance revisions and increments (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2024).

The 2025-26 budget illustrates this pattern concretely. Of the total estimated expenditure, revenue expenditure of Rs 12,540.20 crore accounted for 82.51 percent of the total, with salaries and wages alone constituting 30.54 percent of total expenditure for the year (Government of Mizoram, as reported by All India Radio News Services Division, 2025). This leaves a comparatively narrow fiscal envelope for discretionary and development expenditure once salaries, pensions, and interest obligations are met, a structural constraint that recurs across the sectoral chapters of this framework, particularly in education (Chapter 5) and health (Chapter 6), where a large share of departmental budgets is similarly absorbed by establishment costs rather than programme or capital spending.

Total expenditure, excluding debt repayment, was estimated at Rs 14,624 crore for 2025-26 and rose further to approximately Rs 16,684 crore in the 2026-27 budget estimates, itself close to the revised estimate for 2025-26 of Rs 16,708 crore, suggesting a degree of expenditure plateauing even as revenue receipts (particularly devolution) continued to grow (PRS Legislative Research, 2026). The 2026-27 budget's gross expenditure figure was reported at Rs 17,076.92 crore against a total Consolidated Fund receipt figure of Rs 17,469.91 crore (Government of Mizoram Budget Speech, as reported by Outlook Business, 2026).

On expenditure quality, the persistent finding across successive CAG State Finances Audit Reports is that Mizoram's revenue expenditure has tended to grow faster than would be consistent with a stable path toward capital asset creation, and that this pattern, while showing periodic improvement, has not been definitively reversed.

The 2026-27 budget's stated sectoral priorities, agriculture, social infrastructure, and connectivity, with a notable Rs 350 crore allocation to the flagship Bana Kaih (hand-holding) farmer welfare scheme, of which Rs 150 crore is earmarked specifically for procurement of designated key crops, represent an attempt to direct a larger share of available fiscal space toward productive rural and agricultural investment (Chief Minister Lalduhoma, Budget Speech 2026-27, as reported by nenow.in, 2026).

2.3 Capital Expenditure: Infrastructure Investment and Asset Creation

Capital expenditure in Mizoram has shown volatility across recent budget cycles, reflecting both the state's genuine infrastructure investment needs, given the terrain-driven cost of road, bridge, and building construction discussed in Chapter 8, and the practical constraints of implementation capacity within a small state administration. The CAG's State Finances Audit Report for 2022-23 recorded that the fiscal deficit increased substantially to Rs 1,107.67 crore, or 3.37 percent of GSDP, in 2022-23 from Rs 352.92 crore, or 1.61 percent of GSDP, in 2018-19, and attributed part of this widening to a 25 percent increase in capital outlay alongside a 13 percent increase in revenue expenditure in the relevant year (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2024; PRS Legislative Research, 2024). This suggests that when Mizoram has expanded its fiscal deficit in recent years, capital investment has been a meaningful part of the reason, a more favourable pattern than deficit expansion driven purely by consumption-type revenue expenditure, though the audit reports have also flagged that revenue expenditure growth has often outpaced capital expenditure growth in the same period.

The 2026-27 budget's capital receipts were estimated at Rs 2,475.60 crore, and the government has signalled an intention to utilize favourable central capital expenditure loans, offered interest-free by the Union Government to states specifically for capital projects, a scheme that has become an increasingly important instrument for financing capital works in resource-constrained states like Mizoram (PRS Legislative Research, 2026). The state's continued reliance on these central capex loan instruments, rather than on market borrowing or own-resource-funded capital investment, is itself an indicator of the fiscal architecture discussed throughout this chapter, namely that even capital asset creation in Mizoram is substantially financed and shaped by instruments designed and disbursed at the Union level.

Sectorally, the largest calls on capital expenditure in recent years have come from road construction and upgrading (discussed in Chapter 8), power sector infrastructure (Chapter 9), and public building and social infrastructure works tied to central missions such as PM-DevINE and the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme. The efficiency of this capital spending, measured by project completion timelines and cost overruns, has been a recurring area of observation in state audit reports, which have periodically flagged delayed completion of centrally sponsored infrastructure works and instances of funds remaining unutilized at the end of a financial year, a pattern common to many small hill states where construction seasons are compressed by heavy monsoon rainfall and where contractor capacity is limited.

2.4 Fiscal Deficit, Primary Deficit and Debt Sustainability

Mizoram's fiscal deficit trajectory over the past several years illustrates a state oscillating between periods of consolidation and periods of expansion, generally in response to central grant timing, GSDP growth realization, and election-cycle expenditure pressure. The fiscal deficit was recorded at 4.7 percent of GSDP in the revised estimates for 2023-24, considerably above the original budget estimate of 3.5 percent for that year, before being

budgeted down to 2.8 percent of GSDP (Rs 1,366 crore) for 2024-25 (PRS Legislative Research, 2024). For 2025-26, the fiscal deficit was targeted at 4.6 percent of GSDP (Rs 1,652 crore) (PRS Legislative Research, 2025), before the 2026-27 budget estimated a gross fiscal deficit of Rs 1,669.02 crore, equivalent to 3.81 percent of GSDP (Chief Minister Lalduhoma, Budget Speech 2026-27, as reported by nenow.in, 2026).

These fiscal deficit levels sit above the 3 percent of GSDP benchmark generally associated with the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management framework for non-special category states, though it should be noted that the additional fiscal deficit headroom permitted to states for capital expenditure and power sector reforms, along with unutilized fiscal deficit limits carried forward from the pandemic years of 2021-22 onward, has provided Mizoram, like most states, some legitimate flexibility above the base 3 percent norm (PRS Legislative Research, 2024).

On debt sustainability, the state's outstanding liabilities have shown a worrying upward trajectory in absolute terms even as the debt-to-GSDP ratio has fluctuated. Total outstanding liabilities stood at Rs 10,972.49 crore as of 2022-23, equivalent to 33.42 percent of GSDP, which the CAG noted had failed to meet the 31.81 percent target set under the state's Medium-Term Fiscal Policy statement for that year (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2024). By the 2026-27 budget, projected liabilities had risen further to Rs 19,085.16 crore, with a debt-to-GSDP ratio reported at 43.56 percent (Chief Minister Lalduhoma, Budget Speech 2026-27, as reported by nenow.in, 2026). This represents a substantial increase in the debt burden relative to the size of the state's economy over a relatively short period, and it is a trend this framework flags as a priority area for fiscal monitoring over the coming Finance Commission cycle, since a small-GSDP state carrying a debt-to-GSDP ratio approaching or exceeding 40 percent has correspondingly less fiscal space to absorb future shocks, whether from disaster response costs (Chapter 14), health emergencies, or a slowdown in central transfers.

The CAG audit for 2022-23 also drew attention to accounting adjustments that affect how the state's true revenue and fiscal position should be read. After adjusting for certain irregularities in the treatment of items such as the Guarantee Redemption Fund, sinking and redemption funds, and similar accounting items, the audit recalculated the revenue surplus for that year at Rs 123.37 crore and the fiscal deficit at Rs 1,174.19 crore, figures that differ from the headline budget figures and that the audit report presented as a more accurate picture of the underlying fiscal position (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2024). This finding underscores a recurring theme in Mizoram's public financial management, discussed further in Section 2.8, namely that budget-stage fiscal indicators require careful reconciliation against audited actuals before being used for medium-term planning purposes.

2.5 State's Borrowings, Guarantees and Off-Budget Liabilities

Mizoram's borrowings are drawn from three broad sources, market loans and loans from financial institutions and commercial banks, loans and advances from the Government of India, and accruals through the Public Account, including provident fund and small savings

collections routed through the state. The share of Public Account receipts within total receipts declined from 37.39 percent in 2013-14 to 32.26 percent in 2017-18, according to the CAG's State Finances Audit Report for the year ended 31 March 2018, reflecting a gradual shift in the composition of the state's financing sources over that period (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2019).

On guarantees, the CAG's 2022-23 audit found the state government's outstanding guarantees stood at Rs 125.15 crore, equivalent to 0.38 percent of GSDP, a comparatively modest figure relative to the state's overall liability profile, though the audit's broader point was that even modest guarantee exposure represents a contingent liability that should be actively monitored rather than treated as fiscally inconsequential simply because of its small relative size (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2024).

A more persistent concern across multiple audit cycles has been off-budget or extra-budgetary transfers, specifically the direct transfer of central scheme funds to State Implementing Agencies (SIAs) outside the formal state budget and treasury system. The CAG's report for the year ended 31 March 2018 found that despite a requirement, effective from 2014-15 budget estimates onward, that such transfers be routed through the Consolidated Fund, funds continued to be transferred directly to SIAs such as the MGNREGS Rural Employment Guarantee Council of Mizoram outside the state budget and treasury system, a practice the audit found resulted in an understatement of the state's recorded revenue receipts, revenue surplus, fiscal surplus or deficit, and primary surplus to the extent of those transfers (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2019). This is a technical but consequential finding, since it means that headline fiscal indicators published in budget documents may not fully capture the true scale of public resources flowing into the state economy through centrally sponsored schemes, complicating both fiscal monitoring and the accurate assessment of scheme-wise development spending referenced throughout this framework, for instance in the MGNREGA discussion in Chapter 12.

2.6 Finance Commission Awards: Allocation and Utilisation

Finance Commission awards represent the single most consequential external determinant of Mizoram's fiscal position, more so than almost any state-level policy lever available to the government. Under the Fifteenth Finance Commission, Mizoram received Revenue Deficit Grants that were budgeted to decline over the award period, falling by an estimated 46 percent in 2025-26 relative to the revised estimates for 2024-25, in line with the Commission's built-in tapering formula for such grants (PRS Legislative Research, 2025).

The transition to the Sixteenth Finance Commission award, which came into effect for the 2026-27 fiscal year, has been more favourable to Mizoram, with the state's horizontal devolution share rising to 0.564 percent and its central tax devolution allocation rising to Rs 8,608.08 crore, an increase of Rs 976.80 crore over what the Fifteenth Finance Commission formula would have delivered (Chief Minister Lalduhoma, Budget Speech 2026-27, as reported by nenow.in, 2026). This increase in devolution share is consistent with the general pattern by which Finance Commission formulae, which weight criteria including population,

area, forest cover, and income distance, tend to favour smaller, forest-rich, lower-income states such as Mizoram relative to their population share alone, an outcome that partially compensates for the state's narrow own-revenue base discussed in Section 2.1.

Beyond tax devolution, Finance Commission awards also determine the flow of grants-in-aid to local bodies, both rural and urban, and the 2026-27 budget speech specifically noted the state government's intention to work on clearing pending rural local body grants, an implicit acknowledgment that utilization and disbursement of Finance Commission-mandated local body grants had lagged in preceding years (Government of Mizoram Budget Speech 2026-27, as reported by [newkerala.com](#), 2026). Given that Village Councils rather than Panchayati Raj Institutions constitute Mizoram's rural local government tier, as discussed in Chapter 1, the mechanics of routing Finance Commission local body grants to Village Councils and Village Development Boards involves adaptation of formulae originally designed with Panchayati Raj Institutions in mind, and this framework recommends, in its Vision 2047 chapter, a dedicated review of whether current grant utilization mechanisms are appropriately calibrated to Mizoram's distinct local governance architecture.

2.7 GST Implementation: Revenue Impact and Compensation Status

Goods and Services Tax collections form a meaningful, though not dominant, component of Mizoram's own tax revenue, alongside State Excise, vehicle taxes, and stamp duty. The GST compensation mechanism, which guaranteed states a 14 percent annual revenue growth rate over a 2015-16 base for the first five years of GST implementation, expired at the end of June 2022, and Mizoram, like other states with a narrow indirect tax base, experienced a corresponding loss of a previously assured revenue cushion once compensation payments ceased, though the compensation cess itself continued to be collected for a further period to service borrowings raised to bridge state compensation shortfalls during the pandemic years.

Mizoram's GST revenue performance continues to be shaped by two structural features specific to the state. First, its status as an inter-state and international border state within the GST regime's destination-based taxation principle means that a meaningful share of consumption within Mizoram involves goods produced or first taxed elsewhere, with GST revenue accruing to Mizoram primarily on final consumption rather than on production, a feature common to consumption-heavy, production-light state economies. Second, the state's continuing prohibition policy under the Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition and Control) Act, discussed further in Chapter 15's governance chapter and touched on here because of its direct fiscal implication, removes a revenue category, State Excise on liquor, that forms a substantial own-tax revenue source in most other Indian states, meaning Mizoram forgoes a revenue stream that would otherwise meaningfully improve its own-tax-to-GSDP ratio discussed in Section 2.1.

Looking ahead, GST rate rationalization discussions at the GST Council level, along with the eventual outcome of ongoing discussions on extending or restructuring compensation cess-linked borrowings, will continue to have a bearing on Mizoram's revenue planning, and this framework recommends that the state's Finance Department maintain active engagement

in GST Council proceedings specifically to flag the distinct revenue vulnerabilities of small, consumption-dependent, prohibition-enforcing states within the wider GST design.

2.8 Public Financial Management Reforms and Audit Compliance

Mizoram enacted its Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act in 2006, in direct response to the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission, establishing a legislated framework and Fiscal Correction Path intended to progressively reduce revenue deficit and fiscal deficit and stabilize the growth of outstanding liabilities (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, as archived audit findings indicate). Successive CAG audit reports have acknowledged that the FRBM framework has delivered real benefits in terms of a general reduction in deficit indicators over the medium term, while simultaneously flagging specific institutional gaps that have not yet been fully addressed, including incomplete implementation of a New Pension Scheme framework, the need to more robustly capitalize and operationalize a Guarantee Redemption Fund, and continued difficulty containing the growth of revenue expenditure relative to the Fiscal Correction Path targets.

The state's transition to the Public Financial Management System portal maintained by the Controller General of Accounts has improved the traceability of central scheme fund flows in principle, though as discussed in Section 2.5, actual practice around direct-to-SIA transfers has periodically fallen short of full PFMS-based routing and consolidation into the state's own Consolidated Fund accounts. Audit reports from the Accountant General's office in Aizawl, part of the wider Comptroller and Auditor General institutional structure, continue to be published on a regular cycle, with the State Finances Audit Report for 2023-24 released and referenced by the state's own Department of Information and Public Relations in 2025, indicating a functioning, if still maturing, audit compliance and public disclosure cycle (Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Government of Mizoram, 2025).

This framework recommends three specific public financial management reforms as priorities for the 2026 to 2030 period, namely full operationalization and adequate capitalization of the Guarantee Redemption Fund consistent with repeated CAG recommendations, complete migration of all centrally sponsored scheme fund flows through the Consolidated Fund and PFMS architecture without exception for State Implementing Agency transfers, and the institution of a standing legislative committee review of each year's State Finances Audit Report findings within a fixed statutory timeframe, to ensure that audit observations translate into budget-cycle corrective action rather than remaining as a recurring but unaddressed observation across successive annual reports.

2.9 Centre-State Fiscal Relations: Trends and Themes

Taken as a whole, this chapter's findings point to a fiscal architecture in which Mizoram's own policy choices, whether on tax administration, expenditure prioritization, or debt management, operate within a fiscal envelope overwhelmingly shaped by decisions made at the Union level, principally through the Finance Commission award cycle, central sector and centrally sponsored scheme design, and Union budget allocations for the Northeastern region

under mechanisms such as PM-DevINE and the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme.

This is not a criticism specific to Mizoram's fiscal management; it is a structural feature shared by all Special Category and Sixth Schedule hill states, whose narrow own-revenue base is an accepted and, to a considerable degree, appropriately compensated feature of India's fiscal federalism design, given these states' genuine cost disabilities in service delivery arising from terrain, low population density, and international border responsibilities. The Sixteenth Finance Commission's more favourable devolution outcome for Mizoram, discussed in Section 2.6, reflects continued recognition of this reality at the national level.

However, the widening debt-to-GSDP ratio documented in Section 2.4, rising from approximately 33 percent in 2022-23 to over 43 percent projected for 2026-27, alongside continued heavy reliance on central capex loans for capital investment and persistent institutional gaps in guarantee fund capitalization and off-budget transfer discipline, together suggest that Mizoram's fiscal position, while structurally supported by the Centre, requires more active state-level fiscal management over the coming Finance Commission cycle than has been consistently exercised to date. The Vision 2047 chapter of this framework returns to this theme in setting out a financing strategy that seeks to balance continued, and appropriate, reliance on central transfers with a more deliberate state-level effort to grow own-tax revenue, strengthen debt management institutions, and close the persistent gaps in public financial management flagged across successive CAG audit cycles.

Chapter 3: Economic Structure, Growth and Sectoral Performance

3.1 Gross State Domestic Product: Trends, Growth Rate and Sectoral Share

Mizoram's Gross State Domestic Product has followed a steady, if modest in absolute scale, upward trajectory over the past decade. At current prices, GSDP was provisionally estimated at Rs 36,089 crore for 2025-26, equivalent to approximately US\$4.2 billion, having grown at a compound annual growth rate of approximately 9.08 percent between 2015-16 and 2025-26 (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026). The 2026-27 state budget projected GSDP to rise further to Rs 43,817.09 crore, an increase of Rs 4,290.67 crore over the previous year and equivalent to a nominal growth rate of approximately 11 percent (Chief Minister Lalduhoma, Budget Speech 2026-27, as reported by *nenow.in*, 2026). In dollar terms, this places Mizoram's nominal GDP at roughly US\$5.2 billion for 2026, ranking 32nd among Indian states and union territories by absolute economic size, even though on a per capita basis, discussed in Section 3.2, the state ranks considerably higher (Wikipedia contributors, citing Government of Mizoram Economic Survey data, 2026).

Sectoral composition of GSDP has shifted meaningfully over the past decade and a half, with somewhat divergent estimates depending on the base year and methodology used across different official releases, a common feature of smaller states where GSVA recompilation exercises periodically revise historical series. The Economic Survey of Mizoram 2022-2023, presented in the state assembly in February 2023, recorded the tertiary or service sector as contributing 50.08 percent of Gross State Value Added, followed by the secondary or industry sector at 25.09 percent, and the primary sector, comprising agriculture and allied activities, at 24.83 percent, itself a rise from 20.12 percent as recently as 2011-12 (Government of Mizoram, Economic Survey 2022-2023, as reported by *Business Standard*, 2023). More recent estimates for 2025-26 place the service sector's share at approximately 46 percent of Gross State Value Added, industry at approximately 33 percent, and the primary sector at approximately 20 percent, indicating some further shift toward industry's share, likely reflecting construction activity linked to infrastructure investment and power sector expansion (EGROW Foundation, 2026). Regardless of the precise year-to-year variation between these estimates, the consistent underlying pattern is clear: services, driven substantially by public administration, trade, and increasingly education and health, remain the largest single contributor to Mizoram's economy, while the primary sector's share, though smaller than the service sector's, remains disproportionately large relative to its GSVA contribution when measured against the share of the workforce it employs, a mismatch discussed further in Section 3.7.

3.2 Per Capita Income and Purchasing Power Analysis

Mizoram's per capita income presents one of the more striking findings in this framework, given the state's modest absolute GSDP. Per capita income for Mizoram has been estimated at approximately Rs 308,571, which, on a nominal per capita GDP basis for 2026, places the

state at approximately US\$4,093, ranking 19th among Indian states, a considerably stronger relative position than its 32nd rank by absolute GSDP size (Wikipedia contributors, citing Government of Mizoram Economic Survey data, 2026). On a purchasing power parity basis, per capita GDP for 2026 has been estimated at approximately US\$17,499 (Wikipedia contributors, citing Government of Mizoram Economic Survey data, 2026).

This per capita income position, comparatively strong relative to Mizoram's small population base, mirrors the human development pattern discussed in Chapter 1: a small state with a modest absolute economic footprint nonetheless delivers a reasonably favourable per capita outcome for its resident population, aided by the state's small population denominator, near-universal literacy supporting participation in salaried government and service sector employment, and comparatively low income inequality relative to mainland states. However, per capita income figures at the state level can mask considerable variation between Aizawl, where government employment, trade, and emerging service sector jobs are concentrated, and the more remote southern and eastern districts, where cash income remains more closely tied to subsistence and semi-subsistence agriculture, a disparity consistent with the intra-state SDG Index gap discussed in Chapter 1, Section 1.7.

3.3 Primary Sector: Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

Agriculture and allied activities remain central to rural livelihoods in Mizoram even as their share of GSVA has been overtaken by services and, more recently, industry. The primary sector's GSVA share rose from 20.12 percent in 2011-12 to 24.83 percent in 2021-22 before moderating to an estimated 18 to 20 percent range in more recent 2025-26 estimates, a pattern the Economic Survey of Mizoram itself noted reflects the fact that more than half the state's population continues to derive the greater part of its income from agriculture, meaning that faster growth in this sector carries outsized importance for broad-based income growth even where its aggregate GSVA share is smaller than the service sector's (Government of Mizoram, Economic Survey 2022-2023, as reported by Business Standard, 2023).

Traditional jhum, or shifting, cultivation continues to be practised widely across Mizoram's hill terrain, and rice remains the dominant staple crop grown under this system, though state policy since the New Land Use Policy's launch in 2011, and its various successor iterations including the current government's Bana Kaih scheme discussed in Chapter 2, has sought to transition farmers toward settled, terrace, or WRC (Wet Rice Cultivation) methods and toward higher-value horticultural crops better suited to permanent cultivation on hill slopes.

Horticulture has emerged as a genuine comparative strength for Mizoram, supported by its varied agro-climatic zones across different elevations. Key horticultural crops include ginger, turmeric, the Mizo chilli or bird's eye chilli (Bhut Jolokia-adjacent varieties prized for both pungency and market demand), passion fruit, banana, and, increasingly, oil palm, which has been promoted under the National Mission on Edible Oils–Oil Palm as a long-duration cash crop suited to the state's rainfall and terrain profile in several districts. Sericulture is another notable primary-sector activity with deep roots in Mizoram's agro-economy; raw silk production stood at 84 metric tonnes in FY24, and the state's climatic conditions have long

supported commercial rearing of multiple silkworm varieties, positioning sericulture as both a livelihood and a value-addition opportunity linked to the state's broader craft and textile economy (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026).

Animal husbandry, including pig and poultry rearing, both of which hold particular cultural and dietary importance in Mizo society, and fisheries, practised on a limited but growing scale given the state's numerous streams and constructed ponds rather than any significant natural lake or coastal resource, round out the primary sector. Bamboo deserves particular mention as a primary-sector resource of outsized importance to Mizoram; the state possesses some of the richest bamboo resources in India, supporting both traditional livelihoods, construction, handicrafts, and food use, and an increasingly promoted bamboo-based industrial value chain discussed further in Section 3.4 and Chapter 4.

3.4 Secondary Sector: Industry, Manufacturing and Mining

Mizoram's secondary sector, comprising manufacturing, construction, and utilities, has grown to represent an estimated 25 to 33 percent of GSVA depending on the reference year, a rise driven substantially by construction activity, itself closely tied to public infrastructure investment given the limited scale of private industrial manufacturing in the state. Formal manufacturing in Mizoram remains limited in scale and is concentrated in agro-processing, particularly of bamboo, ginger, and other horticultural produce, food processing more broadly, and a small handloom and handicraft manufacturing base that straddles the boundary between formal industry and traditional craft production.

Bamboo-based industry represents the sector with the clearest potential for scaled manufacturing growth given Mizoram's resource endowment, encompassing bamboo shoot processing, bamboo charcoal and briquette production, bamboo furniture and construction material manufacturing, and bamboo-based handicrafts, an area where state industrial policy, discussed further in Chapter 4, has sought to attract both public investment and private enterprise. Mining plays a comparatively minor role in Mizoram's economy relative to many other Indian states; the state does not possess the large-scale coal, iron ore, or bauxite deposits found in neighbouring Assam or in mainland mineral-belt states, though limited extraction of building stone, sand, and gravel for construction purposes occurs across the state, and some potential for natural gas and petroleum exploration exists in parts of Mizoram given its geological continuity with hydrocarbon-bearing formations in the wider Assam-Arakan basin, though commercial-scale extraction has not materialized to date.

3.5 Tertiary Sector: Trade, Finance, Real Estate and Services

The tertiary sector remains the largest single contributor to Mizoram's GSVA, at approximately 46 to 50 percent depending on the estimation year, and within this sector, public administration and defence constitute a disproportionately large share relative to what would be expected in a more diversified state economy, reflecting the outsized role of government employment as an income source in a state with a limited private formal sector

(Government of Mizoram, Economic Survey 2022-2023, as reported by Business Standard, 2023; EGROW Foundation, 2026).

Beyond public administration, trade, both wholesale and retail, forms a significant tertiary sector component, much of it operating in the informal economy discussed in Section 3.6. Financial services have expanded considerably over the past decade with the extension of banking correspondent networks, cooperative banking, and digital payment infrastructure into even fairly remote parts of the state, supporting both direct benefit transfer delivery for government schemes and a gradual increase in formal savings and credit access among rural households. Education and health services, covered in depth in Chapters 5 and 6 respectively, form a growing tertiary sector segment, as does tourism, discussed in Chapter 19, which remains underdeveloped relative to the state's genuine natural and cultural tourism assets but has been identified as a strategic growth priority in recent state planning documents. Real estate and construction-linked services have grown in tandem with Aizawl's continued urban expansion and with planned developments such as the Thenzawl Peace City project, an urban development initiative reflecting the state government's ambitions to diversify economic activity beyond the capital (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026).

3.6 Informal Economy: Size, Significance and Integration Challenges

As in most Northeastern and hill states, the informal economy in Mizoram accounts for a substantial share of total employment, even though granular, state-specific informal sector size estimates are not routinely published at the same frequency as national-level informal sector data. Petty trade, small-scale food and beverage vending, informal transport services, unregistered small-scale manufacturing and handicraft production, and a substantial share of agricultural labour operate outside the formal registration, taxation, and social security architecture that covers salaried government and organized private sector employment.

The integration challenge this poses for Mizoram's development planning is twofold. First, informal economic activity, by its nature, under-contributes to the state's own-tax revenue base discussed in Chapter 2, reinforcing the state's fiscal dependence on central transfers. Second, workers in the informal economy generally lack access to formal social security instruments, whether the Employees' Provident Fund, Employees' State Insurance, or organized pension coverage, leaving a large share of Mizoram's workforce reliant on informal community and church-based support networks, discussed in Chapter 1, and on targeted government welfare schemes discussed in Chapter 7, rather than on employment-linked social protection.

State-level efforts to extend formal registration to informal enterprises, including through the Udyam registration portal for micro, small, and medium enterprises and through cooperative society formalization drives targeting self-help groups, discussed further in Chapter 12, represent the primary policy lever currently in use to gradually narrow this informality gap.

3.7 Labour Market: Employment, Unemployment and Workforce Quality

Mizoram's labour market reflects the broader structural tension identified throughout this chapter: a highly literate and, at the secondary and higher education level, increasingly well-educated workforce entering a labour market whose formal, organized-sector job creation has not kept pace with the number of new entrants each year, particularly graduates.

National Periodic Labour Force Survey data for the 2023-24 reference period (July 2023 to June 2024) recorded an all-India Worker Population Ratio in Current Weekly Status of 58.2 percent, with male and female figures at 76.3 percent and 40.3 percent respectively, alongside an overall unemployment rate that has hovered in the 3.1 to 3.2 percent range at the all-India level in usual status terms across the 2023-24 and 2024-25 survey rounds (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 2024, 2025). Youth unemployment, defined as the 15 to 29 age cohort, remains the most acute segment of India's unemployment challenge, recorded at 10.2 percent nationally for 2023-24 and showing a modest decline to 9.9 percent in the 2025 annual PLFS results (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 2025; Drishti IAS, 2025). While Mizoram-specific PLFS estimates are compiled and published at a more granular level through the Ministry's state data series, they are drawn from smaller sample sizes than the national aggregate and should be read with the same caution applied to other Mizoram-specific survey estimates throughout this framework.

Qualitatively, the well-documented pattern in Mizoram's labour market, consistent with observations in successive state Economic Survey documents and corroborated by the state's continued high outmigration of young graduates to Guwahati, Delhi, Bengaluru, and other mainland cities for both further study and employment, is one of substantial graduate underemployment, in which a workforce with a strong education profile finds an insufficient supply of matching formal-sector jobs within the state, particularly outside government service. This underemployment pattern is compounded by the limited scale of Mizoram's private formal sector discussed in Sections 3.4 and 3.5, meaning that government employment, whether in the state civil service, teaching, or health services, continues to function as the primary aspirational formal employment pathway for educated youth, a dynamic this framework flags as unsustainable at current fiscal scale, given the committed expenditure pressures already documented in Chapter 2.

3.8 Inflation, Price Stability and Consumer Welfare

Mizoram's Consumer Price Index inflation was recorded at approximately 3.16 percent for 2025, broadly in line with or modestly below the Reserve Bank of India's medium-term inflation target band, and generally consistent with the national inflation trend over the same period (Wikipedia contributors, citing Government of Mizoram and Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data, 2026). As a landlocked, import-dependent hill state economy, Mizoram's consumer price levels remain somewhat more sensitive than the national average to transport cost fluctuations, since a significant share of consumer goods, including most manufactured products and a meaningful share of food items beyond what is locally grown, are transported into the state over long road distances from Assam and beyond, a

structural feature that links consumer welfare directly to the transport connectivity challenges discussed in Chapter 8.

Price stability for essential commodities has also been supported by the state's Public Distribution System and by targeted market intervention schemes for locally produced horticultural crops under the Bana Kaih scheme's procurement component, discussed in Chapter 2, which aims to provide farmers with an assured procurement price floor for designated key crops while indirectly supporting more stable retail prices for those commodities within the state.

3.9 Growth Corridors: Engines of Economic Expansion

Looking across the sectoral analysis presented in this chapter, three growth corridors emerge as the most credible near- to medium-term engines of expansion for Mizoram's economy. The first is the horticulture and agro-processing corridor, built around the state's comparative advantage in ginger, turmeric, Mizo chilli, passion fruit, and bamboo, supported by continued investment in cold chain infrastructure, food processing capacity, and market linkage, an agenda directly connected to the Bana Kaih scheme and to the agriculture-focused chapters of this framework, Chapters 2 and 18.

The second is the connectivity-enabled trade and logistics corridor associated with Mizoram's position as a gateway to Myanmar and, through it, to Southeast Asia under the Government of India's Act East Policy, an ambition given fresh material support by the completion of the Bairabi to Sairang railway line and by continued investment in road connectivity toward the Zokhawthar-Rih border trade point with Myanmar, discussed further in Chapters 4 and 8. Realization of this corridor's potential remains contingent on the security and political situation in Myanmar's Chin State, which has remained unstable since the 2021 military coup, and this framework treats the trade corridor's timeline as inherently linked to developments outside the state government's control.

The third is the services and human capital export corridor, built on Mizoram's strong education outcomes and English-language proficiency, encompassing both the further development of in-state service sector employment in education, health, information technology-enabled services, and tourism, and a more deliberate state policy engagement with the reality of skilled outmigration, treating it not purely as a loss to be reversed but partly as an asset to be supported through better skilling alignment, diaspora engagement, and remittance-linked local investment channels, an approach explored further in the skill development discussion in Chapter 17.

Each of these three corridors depends, to varying degrees, on the investment climate, industrial policy, and infrastructure priorities examined in the next chapter of this framework, which turns to Mizoram's efforts to build a more conducive environment for private investment, industrial development, and public-private partnership.

Chapter 4: Investment, Industry and Private Sector Development

4.1 Investment Climate Assessment and Ease of Doing Business

Mizoram's investment climate has undergone a deliberate and fairly recent institutional upgrade, reflecting the state government's recognition that private capital, both domestic and foreign, must play a larger role in the state's economy than the historically government-dominated growth model described in Chapter 3 has allowed. The Government of Mizoram, through its Commerce and Industries Department and a dedicated investment promotion portal, now maintains a formal policy architecture that includes the Mizoram Sustainable Investment Policy, the Mizoram Logistics Policy, the Mizoram Ease of Doing Business Policy, the Mizoram IT Policy, the Mizoram Entrepreneurship and Startup Policy, the Mizoram Responsible Tourism Policy 2020, the Mizoram Telecom Infrastructure Policy, and a dedicated Policy on Public-Private Partnership in Infrastructure Development, among others (Government of Mizoram, Commerce and Industries Department, 2026).

This policy suite explicitly foregrounds ease of doing business, streamlined regulatory processes, and incentives for green and innovative ventures as its organizing principles, and it covers sectors ranging from agriculture, food processing, and handicrafts to information technology and IT-enabled services, tourism, and sports (Government of Mizoram, Commerce and Industries Department, 2026). The state has also begun hosting dedicated investor engagement events, including an Investment Roadshow in 2024, intended to directly market Mizoram's specific sectoral opportunities, bamboo, horticulture, tourism, and border trade, to prospective domestic and international investors who might otherwise default to considering only larger, more visible Indian states.

Despite this policy modernization, Mizoram's practical investment climate continues to face the structural constraints common to small, remote, hill-terrain economies: high logistics costs, a thin local supplier and ancillary industry base, a limited pool of readily available industrially skilled labour outside a few trades, and land availability constraints shaped by the state's tribal land tenure system and by Article 371G of the Constitution, discussed further in Section 4.5, which restricts the transfer of land to non-tribal outside investors and requires most external investment to proceed through joint venture structures with local partners.

4.2 Industrial Policy Framework and MSME Development

Mizoram's industrial policy has evolved through several distinct phases since the state's first Industrial Policy was notified on 15 March 1989, which placed particular emphasis on reducing dependence on shifting cultivation by promoting alternative industrial livelihoods, and on encouraging industries built around locally available raw materials (Government of Mizoram, Industries Department, 2012). The New Industrial Policy of 2000 deepened this local-resource-base approach, and the Mizoram Industrial Policy 2012, the most recent fully notified policy prior to the current draft revision, continued this direction while adding

specific provisions for special capital subsidy assistance to MSMEs in identified thrust sectors for first-generation entrepreneurs, supplementing incentives available under the North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy and other Government of India schemes (Government of Mizoram, Industries Department, 2012). A Draft Mizoram Industrial Policy 2025 has since been prepared, alongside a complementary Mizoram Procurement Preference Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises, 2025, both of which the Commerce and Industries Department has placed for consultation as part of the state's ongoing policy modernization (Government of Mizoram, Commerce and Industries Department, 2026).

MSME development in Mizoram is supported through the Branch MSME Development Institute in Aizawl, which operates under the MSME Development Institute at Agartala, and which provides techno-economic and managerial consultancy, state industrial profile preparation, and entrepreneur development programming aimed specifically at motivating educated unemployed youth toward self-employment, directly addressing the graduate underemployment pattern discussed in Chapter 3 (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, citing MSME-DI Aizawl functions). Key national MSME schemes implemented in the state include the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme through the District Industries Centre and Khadi and Village Industries Commission, the Cluster Development Programme, and the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries, the latter particularly relevant to Mizoram's bamboo and handicraft-based traditional industry base discussed in Chapter 3.

Formalization of Mizoram's MSME sector has accelerated markedly in recent years. Udyam registrations in the state totalled 13,581 between 2020 and 2023, with the services sector accounting for the largest share, at 31 percent of total registrations, and the retail trading sub-sector recording an approximately fortyfold increase in registrations following the 2021-22 policy change that brought retail trade formally within the MSME registration umbrella (RAMP Scheme, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, citing Mizoram state industry profile data). Average employment generated per registered enterprise was recorded at approximately six individuals for services sector enterprises and four individuals for trading enterprises, with Aizawl district accounting for a disproportionately large share of total registrations, consistent with the capital-centric concentration of formal economic activity discussed in Chapter 3 (RAMP Scheme, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises).

4.3 Large and Anchor Industries: Sectoral Analysis

Mizoram does not possess large-scale anchor industries in the conventional sense associated with mainland industrial states, no major automobile, steel, cement, or petrochemical manufacturing hubs, and this framework does not attempt to overstate the state's industrial base. Within the secondary sector composition discussed in Chapter 3, the industry sector's largest determinant has historically been the electricity, gas, water supply, and other utility services category, which accounted for approximately 60 percent of the secondary sector's GSVA contribution as of 2018-19, with manufacturing proper contributing only around 2

percent of the sector in the same year, a striking illustration of how thin Mizoram's actual manufacturing base remains even as its broader industry sector share of GSVA has grown (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, citing state industry data, 2018-19).

The closest approximation to anchor industries in Mizoram are found in bamboo-based processing, horticultural and food processing (particularly of ginger, turmeric, and passion fruit), sericulture-linked textile production, and, increasingly, power generation itself, both hydropower and, on a smaller scale, solar, which functions simultaneously as an infrastructure sector (Chapter 9) and as a directly GSVA-contributing industrial activity given its outsized share of the secondary sector composition. Cement and construction material production, serving the state's own infrastructure and housing construction demand rather than export markets, represents another modest but locally significant industrial activity.

4.4 Special Economic Zones, Industrial Corridors and Clusters

Mizoram has not developed a Special Economic Zone on the scale seen in coastal or larger mainland states, a pattern consistent with most Northeastern states given the logistics cost disadvantages such zones would face for export-oriented manufacturing. Instead, the state's cluster development approach, delivered primarily through the MSE Cluster Development Programme referenced in Section 4.2, has focused on smaller-scale, sector-specific clusters built around bamboo processing, handloom and handicraft production, and food processing, typically located close to raw material sources in specific districts rather than in a single designated industrial zone.

The more significant corridor-level ambition for Mizoram lies not in a domestic industrial corridor but in the border trade and logistics corridor connecting the state to Myanmar and, prospectively, to Southeast Asian markets, discussed further in Section 4.8 and in Chapter 8. Towns such as Champhai and Lunglei are positioned within state planning as emerging trade and logistics centres along this corridor, complementing Aizawl's role as the state's administrative and commercial hub (sarkari.finance, citing Government of Mizoram investment promotion materials, 2026).

4.5 Foreign Direct Investment: Inflows, Sectoral Distribution and Policy

Foreign Direct Investment into Mizoram remains modest in absolute terms relative to India's major FDI-receiving states, consistent with the state's small economic scale documented throughout this framework, but it has shown a clear upward trajectory and sectoral broadening in recent years. Mizoram received approximately US\$45 million in FDI between October 2019 and March 2024, with growing investor interest concentrated in agro-processing, tourism, and green energy, and cumulative FDI reached approximately Rs 150 crore by the first quarter of FY2024, with trade and bamboo-based industries as particular areas of focus (sarkari.finance, citing Government of Mizoram investment promotion data, 2026).

Mizoram's FDI policy operates under a distinctive constitutional and legal framework shaped by Article 371G, which provides that no Act of Parliament in respect of ownership and transfer of land and its resources shall apply to Mizoram unless the state Legislative Assembly so decides by resolution, a protection intended to safeguard the customary land rights of Mizoram's tribal population. As a consequence, the state's broad policy on Foreign Direct Investment and investment from outside the state has been adopted specifically on a joint venture basis, requiring external investors to partner with local entities rather than acquiring land or enterprise ownership outright, a structural feature explicitly designed to safeguard the interests of Mizoram's tribal population while still permitting external capital and expertise to enter the state's economy (Government of Mizoram, Industries Department, 2012). This joint venture requirement is a defining and permanent feature of Mizoram's investment climate that any investor, and any future revision of state industrial policy, must work within rather than around.

Merchandise exports from Mizoram remain very small in absolute terms, totalling approximately Rs 2 crore, or roughly US\$0.23 million, in FY25, concentrated in categories including spices, fruits and vegetables, and organic and inorganic chemicals, underscoring how early-stage the state's integration into export-oriented value chains remains despite the horticultural comparative advantages discussed in Chapter 3 (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026).

4.6 Public Sector Undertakings: Performance and Reform Agenda

Mizoram's public sector undertaking portfolio is small relative to larger Indian states but includes entities operating in sectors such as power distribution, food and civil supplies, handloom and handicrafts development, and small-scale industrial development corporations. The 2012 Industrial Policy explicitly identified re-engineering of public sector undertakings and the development of a rehabilitation package for sick industries as policy priorities, reflecting a long-standing recognition within state government that several public enterprises have historically underperformed relative to their mandate and required either operational reform or, in some cases, closure or restructuring (Government of Mizoram, Industries Department, 2012).

This framework recommends that the state's ongoing industrial policy revision, reflected in the Draft Mizoram Industrial Policy 2025, include a systematic, sector-by-sector review of remaining public sector undertaking performance, with a clear decision framework for which entities warrant continued public investment and reform support, which are candidates for public-private partnership restructuring, and which no longer serve a viable developmental purpose, an exercise that would also help address the fiscal pressure on state finances documented in Chapter 2, since underperforming public sector undertakings frequently represent a hidden and recurring drain on state resources through subsidies, guarantees, or write-offs.

4.7 Public-Private Partnership Framework and Pipeline

Mizoram has adopted a dedicated Policy on Public-Private Partnership in Infrastructure Development, providing the formal framework within which the state can structure PPP arrangements for roads, power, urban infrastructure, tourism facilities, and other capital-intensive sectors where public capital alone, constrained as documented in Chapter 2, is insufficient to meet investment needs (Government of Mizoram, Commerce and Industries Department, 2026). In practice, Mizoram's PPP pipeline remains at an early stage of development relative to larger states with deeper private capital markets and more established PPP track records, and the state's small market size and terrain-driven cost structure mean that PPP projects in Mizoram often require a higher degree of public risk-sharing, through viability gap funding or similar instruments, than would be necessary in more commercially attractive locations.

Areas where this framework identifies the strongest near-term PPP potential include tourism infrastructure, particularly hospitality and adventure tourism facilities linked to the state's natural and cultural assets discussed in Chapter 19, logistics and warehousing infrastructure linked to the border trade corridor discussed in Section 4.8, and renewable energy generation, particularly solar, discussed further in Chapter 9, where declining technology costs have made smaller-scale PPP and private investment models increasingly viable even in geographically constrained markets like Mizoram.

4.8 Regional Cooperation: Shared Region and Growth

Mizoram's investment and industrial development trajectory cannot be assessed in isolation from its position within India's broader Northeastern region and its Act East Policy orientation toward Myanmar and Southeast Asia. The state is positioned as a strategic gateway within this framework, and several regional connectivity projects carry direct implications for the state's investment climate. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, connecting Indian ports to Mizoram via Myanmar's Sittwe port and the Kaladan river and road corridor, has long been identified as a potentially transformative piece of infrastructure for Mizoram's trade positioning, though its full operationalization has been repeatedly delayed by both construction timelines and, more recently, the security situation within Myanmar (sarkari.finance, citing regional connectivity project documentation, 2026).

The Zokhawthar Land Custom Station on the India-Myanmar border is being developed as a formal trade gateway aligned with the Act East Policy, intended to promote cross-border trade in a more structured, customs-compliant manner than the informal border trade that has historically characterized the Zokhawthar-Rih crossing (sarkari.finance, citing Government of Mizoram investment promotion data, 2026). The state's own stated economic vision for the period to 2030 explicitly positions Mizoram as an aspiring model hill state built around green development, border trade, digital empowerment, and resilient infrastructure for inclusive growth (sarkari.finance, citing Government of Mizoram vision documents, 2026).

Realizing this regional cooperation potential depends on factors substantially beyond the state government's direct control, particularly the political and security trajectory in Myanmar's Chin State following the 2021 coup, and this framework recommends that Mizoram's investment promotion strategy maintain a dual-track approach, continuing to prepare the institutional and physical infrastructure needed to capitalize on border trade whenever conditions allow, while ensuring the state's core industrial and MSME development agenda, discussed in Sections 4.2 through 4.6, does not remain contingent on regional trade normalization for its own success. The next chapter turns from Mizoram's economic and industrial development to its education system, the human capital foundation on which the state's comparative advantages in services and skilled employment, discussed throughout this chapter, ultimately depend.

Chapter 5: Education — Access, Quality and Future Readiness

5.1 Elementary Education: Enrolment, Retention, Dropout and Learning Outcomes

Mizoram's elementary education system presents one of the more counterintuitive findings in this framework. The state is widely and correctly known for its exceptionally high adult literacy rate, 91.33 percent at the 2011 Census, the second highest of any Indian state after Kerala (Government of India, 2011), and Aizawl and Serchhip districts have at various points been cited in national literacy campaigns as having achieved effectively universal literacy under Government of India's National Literacy Mission initiatives. Yet current UDISE+ administrative data on school-level retention paints a more complicated picture than this literacy legacy alone would suggest.

According to UDISE+ 2024-25 data on the 2023-24 cohort, Mizoram recorded a primary-level dropout rate of 10.8 percent, an upper primary dropout rate of 11.6 percent, and a secondary-level dropout rate of 17.4 percent, each of which sits well above the corresponding national averages of 0.8 percent, 4.1 percent, and 13.3 percent respectively (Mehta, 2025, analysis of UDISE+ 2024-25 data). This is not a new phenomenon; UDISE 2020-21 data had already flagged Mizoram, alongside Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh, as among the states with the highest primary-level dropout rates in the country, with Mizoram's primary dropout rate recorded at 8.1 percent for that cohort, behind only Manipur's 8.6 percent and Arunachal Pradesh's 8.3 percent nationally (Careers360, 2022, citing UDISE 2020-21). The persistence of this pattern across multiple UDISE+ reporting cycles indicates a structural retention challenge rather than a single-year anomaly, and it sits in tension with the state's strong adult literacy legacy in a way this framework treats as a genuine policy puzzle requiring dedicated attention rather than being smoothed over by citing the state's overall literacy reputation.

Gross Enrolment Ratios at the elementary level in Mizoram are, paradoxically, extremely high, in fact among the highest in the country, with UDISE+ 2024-25 data recording an elementary GER for the Scheduled Tribe population, which constitutes the overwhelming majority of Mizoram's school-going population, at 131.8 percent (Education for All in India, 2025, analysis of UDISE+ 2024-25 ST education data). A GER above 100 percent indicates that the actual enrolled population at that level exceeds the official age-cohort population, generally reflecting a combination of overage and underage students, repetition, and, in a small state like Mizoram, base population estimation uncertainty of the kind discussed in Chapter 1 given the absence of a 2021 Census. This GER pattern should therefore be read alongside the dropout data rather than in isolation: high nominal enrolment coexists with a meaningful share of students who do not complete each level within the expected timeframe.

Pupil-Teacher Ratios in Mizoram are notably favourable on paper, with UDISE+ 2024-25 data recording a primary-level PTR of 11, among the lowest in the country alongside Ladakh

and Sikkim, both at 8 (Education for All in India, 2025, analysis of UDISE+ 2024-25 data). However, the same analysis cautions that such low PTRs in small, remote hill states like Mizoram generally reflect small school sizes scattered across dispersed village populations rather than genuine resource abundance, meaning the favourable ratio should not be read as evidence that teacher deployment or school consolidation is optimally efficient; in practice it often signals a large number of small, under-enrolled schools that are individually costly to staff and maintain relative to the number of students each serves.

5.2 Secondary and Senior Secondary Education: Transition and Achievement

Transition from elementary to secondary and from secondary to senior secondary education represents the most consequential attrition point in Mizoram's education pipeline. UDISE+ 2024-25 data recorded Mizoram's Scheduled Tribe Gross Enrolment Ratio falling from 131.8 percent at the elementary level to 101.4 percent at the secondary level and further to 57.0 percent at the higher secondary level, a decline pattern shared with neighbouring Meghalaya, whose GER falls even more steeply from 164.7 percent at elementary to 40.8 percent at higher secondary, but standing in contrast to states such as Kerala, which holds a comparatively steady GER of 91.7 percent across the same transition (Education for All in India, 2025, analysis of UDISE+ 2024-25 ST education data). This steep decline from secondary to higher secondary GER is among the more consequential single findings in this chapter, since it indicates that even where Mizoram succeeds in bringing children through the compulsory education years, a substantial share do not continue into the senior secondary stage that increasingly serves as the minimum credential for both formal sector employment and higher education access discussed in Section 5.3.

The state's Performance Grading Index results reinforce this picture of secondary-stage strain. Under the most recent Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 framework released by the Ministry of Education, Mizoram was placed in the lower-performing "Akanshi" category grouping, alongside Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Meghalaya, a grouping that stands in sharp contrast to Mizoram's strong showing on aggregate literacy and human development indicators discussed in Chapter 1 (ensureias.com, 2026, citing PGI 2.0 and UDISE+ 2025-26 reports).

This apparent contradiction, a state with among the highest adult literacy and HDI values in the country nonetheless placed in the lower PGI performance band, is one of the clearest illustrations in this framework of the distinction between a legacy literacy achievement and a currently functioning school system's throughput and learning quality, and it should inform how policymakers interpret Mizoram's education standing going forward: past literacy success does not automatically translate into present-day secondary school system performance, and the two require distinct policy responses.

5.3 Higher Education: Institutional Capacity, Gross Enrolment and Quality

Mizoram's higher education institutional base is anchored by Mizoram University, a Central University established in 2001 and located in Aizawl, which serves as the state's primary degree-granting and affiliating institution for a wide network of constituent and affiliated colleges across the state, including long-established institutions such as Pachhunga University College in Aizawl. Beyond Mizoram University, the state's higher education landscape includes a small number of state government colleges, church-affiliated and private colleges, and specialized institutions in fields such as law, nursing, and teacher education, together forming a higher education system that, consistent with the pattern documented in Section 5.2, must absorb a school-leaving cohort considerably smaller in proportion to the elementary-stage cohort than the raw population base would suggest, given the steep GER decline toward higher secondary completion.

India's national higher education Gross Enrolment Ratio has hovered in the range of 27 to 28 percent in recent All India Survey on Higher Education cycles, and while state-disaggregated, current-year GER figures specific to Mizoram were not available in the sources consulted for this framework, the structural pattern documented in Sections 5.1 and 5.2, strong elementary enrolment eroding sharply through secondary and higher secondary stages, implies that Mizoram's effective higher education-eligible cohort, and by extension its higher education GER computed against the full age cohort rather than against those who complete higher secondary, likely understates the state's genuine higher education capacity relative to the pool of students who do complete school. This framework recommends that the state's Higher and Technical Education Department prioritize publication of a disaggregated, Mizoram-specific higher education GER series, benchmarked consistently against All India Survey on Higher Education methodology, to allow more precise tracking of this transition over the coming Finance Commission cycle.

Quality assurance in Mizoram's higher education sector faces the familiar small-state constraint of a limited pool of colleges over which to distribute specialized faculty, laboratory infrastructure, and research funding, meaning that National Assessment and Accreditation Council accreditation coverage and National Institutional Ranking Framework participation remain comparatively thin relative to larger states with a greater number of well-resourced institutions competing for the same national rankings and accreditation cycles.

5.4 Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Ecosystem

Mizoram's technical and vocational education and training ecosystem remains at a comparatively early stage of development relative to the state's stated ambition, discussed in Chapters 3 and 4, of building a more diversified, private-sector-oriented economy less dependent on government employment. Industrial Training Institutes, a polytechnic college, and skill development centres operating under central schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and the North Eastern Region-specific skilling initiatives form the core of the state's formal vocational training infrastructure, complemented by sector-specific training linked to horticulture, sericulture, handicrafts, and tourism, sectors identified in Chapters 3, 4, and 19 as priority areas for Mizoram's economic diversification.

The core structural challenge facing TVET expansion in Mizoram is the same demand-side mismatch discussed in Chapter 3's labour market analysis: a school-leaving and college-leaving cohort with a strong general education orientation and, for many families, an aspiration toward government service or a mainland India career path, set against a state economy whose formal private sector remains too thin to absorb large numbers of vocationally trained graduates locally. This framework's recommendation, elaborated further in Chapter 17's discussion of skill development and workforce alignment, is that Mizoram's TVET strategy should be explicitly designed around the three growth corridors identified in Chapter 3, Section 3.9, horticulture and agro-processing, border trade and logistics, and services and human capital export, rather than pursuing a generic vocational training expansion disconnected from where the state's actual medium-term job creation is most likely to occur.

5.5 Teacher Recruitment, Training and Professional Development

Teacher availability in Mizoram, as documented in Section 5.1, appears favourable on a simple Pupil-Teacher Ratio basis, but this headline figure masks two distinct challenges that recur in state and national analyses of small hill-state education systems. First, the dispersal of Mizoram's population across numerous small villages, discussed in Chapter 1, means that a low state-average PTR coexists with individual schools, particularly in remote parts of Lawngtlai, Siaha, and Saitual districts, that are single-teacher or severely understaffed in specific subjects, especially mathematics, science, and English at the upper primary and secondary levels, even where the district or state aggregate PTR appears comfortable.

Second, teacher training and professional development infrastructure, centred on the State Council of Educational Research and Training and District Institutes of Education and Training, faces the same specialized-capacity constraint discussed throughout this framework's treatment of small-state institutions: a limited number of teacher trainers and training institutions must serve a geographically dispersed teacher workforce, making in-service training coverage and quality harder to sustain uniformly across all eleven districts than in more compact or better-connected states.

The transition to National Education Policy 2020-aligned teacher education requirements, including the eventual move toward a four-year integrated teacher education programme as the minimum qualification pathway, will require Mizoram's teacher education institutions to expand and upgrade their own capacity over the coming decade, an agenda this framework flags as requiring dedicated Finance Commission-linked and central scheme-linked capital and recurring grant support, given the fiscal constraints on state-funded higher education capacity expansion documented in Chapter 2.

5.6 Digital Education, EdTech Integration and ICT in Schools

Digital education infrastructure in Mizoram has expanded considerably over the past decade, supported by national digital infrastructure schemes and by the state's own Telecom Infrastructure Policy discussed in Chapter 4, though the state's hill terrain continues to pose

genuine last-mile connectivity challenges for reliable broadband access in the more remote schools of the southern and eastern districts, a constraint discussed further in Chapter 16's treatment of digital infrastructure. Government schools have progressively been equipped with computer laboratories and, in a growing number of cases, smart classroom infrastructure under central schemes such as Samagra Shiksha, though equipment availability alone does not guarantee effective pedagogical integration, and teacher digital literacy and locally relevant Mizo-language digital content remain areas requiring sustained investment alongside hardware provisioning.

The COVID-19 pandemic period demonstrated both the potential and the limits of remote and digital learning delivery in Mizoram's specific terrain and connectivity context, with church and community radio and, where available, television and mobile-based instruction serving as important supplementary channels during school closures, a pattern that offers a useful, locally validated model for blended and remote learning delivery in Mizoram's more remote schools going forward, particularly for specialized subject instruction that cannot be staffed in every small rural school as discussed in Section 5.5.

5.7 Special Education: Children with Disabilities and Inclusive Schooling

National UDISE+ reporting has noted year-on-year increases in the enrolment of Children with Special Needs alongside Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and Other Backward Class students, reflecting broader national progress toward more inclusive school enrolment reporting and outreach (careers360.com, citing Ministry of Education UDISE analysis). Mizoram's inclusive education infrastructure, however, faces the compounding effect of the state's dispersed rural settlement pattern discussed throughout this chapter, meaning that specialized resources for children with disabilities, whether trained special educators, assistive technology, or accessible school infrastructure, are considerably harder to deploy at adequate density across eleven districts and numerous small village schools than in more urbanized or densely populated states.

This framework recommends that Mizoram's Samagra Shiksha implementation plan give particular priority to a hub-and-spoke model for special education service delivery, concentrating specialized special educator and therapy resources at accessible block or district-level resource centres that serve a cluster of surrounding schools, rather than attempting the less fiscally and logistically feasible alternative of placing a full complement of specialized staff in every individual rural school, an approach more consistent with the state's genuine administrative and fiscal capacity documented in Chapter 2.

5.8 State-Specific Educational Challenges and Reform Priorities

The evidence assembled across this chapter points to a specific and, this framework argues, underappreciated characterization of Mizoram's education challenge. This is not a state facing a foundational literacy crisis; its historical literacy achievement is real, well documented, and among the strongest in the country. It is, instead, a state whose current school system throughput, retention, and secondary-stage performance have not kept pace with the legacy

reputation built by that earlier literacy achievement, as evidenced by dropout rates at the primary, upper primary, and secondary levels that exceed national averages, a steep GER decline between secondary and higher secondary stages that outpaces most states outside the immediate Northeastern neighbourhood, and a PGI 2.0 classification that places Mizoram in a lower-performing peer group than its HDI and literacy rankings would suggest.

Three reform priorities follow directly from this diagnosis. First, a dedicated, disaggregated retention and transition tracking system, built on UDISE+ data but supplemented by state-specific tracking through the school year rather than annual snapshots, to identify precisely where and why students are exiting the system between the elementary, secondary, and higher secondary stages, disaggregated by district given the intra-state disparities documented in Chapter 1. Second, a targeted secondary and higher secondary retention intervention, potentially combining conditional scholarship or stipend support, subject-specific teacher deployment to underserved schools through the hub-and-spoke model discussed in Section 5.7, and closer alignment between secondary curriculum and the TVET and higher education pathways discussed in Sections 5.3 and 5.4, so that students and families see a clearer return to completing the senior secondary stage. Third, sustained investment in teacher training capacity and digital learning infrastructure specifically calibrated to Mizoram's dispersed settlement geography, rather than infrastructure and training models transplanted from denser, more accessible states.

Taken together, these priorities reposition Mizoram's education agenda for the 2026 to 2047 period away from a narrative of continued literacy leadership, which risks complacency given the data reviewed in this chapter, and toward a more precise and urgent agenda centred on secondary-stage retention and quality, an agenda whose success will directly determine whether the state's human capital advantage, discussed throughout this framework beginning in Chapter 1, translates into the kind of broad-based economic diversification and formal employment growth discussed in Chapters 3 and 4, or instead erodes over the coming generation as school system performance and legacy reputation continue to diverge.

Chapter 6: Health, Nutrition and Population

6.1 Public Health Infrastructure: Facilities, Human Resources and Gaps

Mizoram's public health system is organized through the familiar Indian tiered structure of Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres, District Hospitals, and a tertiary apex facility, in Mizoram's case anchored by Zoram Medical College and Hospital in Falkawn, near Aizawl, the state's first and only medical college, established to reduce the state's historical dependence on referral to Guwahati, Kolkata, and other mainland cities for specialist and tertiary care. The Health and Family Welfare Department, supported by the Directorate of Hospital and Medical Education, the Directorate of Nursing, and a separate Directorate of AYUSH for traditional and complementary medicine services, administers this network across the state's eleven districts (Government of Mizoram, Health and Family Welfare Department, 2026).

As with the education system discussed in Chapter 5, Mizoram's dispersed hill settlement pattern shapes the practical challenge of public health infrastructure delivery: a large number of small, scattered facilities are required to achieve reasonable geographic access across the state's difficult terrain, and this in turn creates persistent difficulty in staffing every facility with a full complement of doctors, specialists, and paramedical staff, a challenge compounded by the same specialist-scarcity dynamic documented in Chapter 5's discussion of teacher deployment. District-wise health facility mapping, maintained by the Health and Family Welfare Department through a dedicated Geographic Information System-based health facilities portal, represents a genuine institutional strength in Mizoram's health planning capacity, offering a more granular basis for facility gap analysis than is available in many larger states, even if the underlying staffing and equipment gaps the mapping reveals remain a work in progress (Government of Mizoram, Health and Family Welfare Department, 2026).

6.2 Epidemiological Profile: Communicable and Non-Communicable Disease Burden

Mizoram's epidemiological profile reflects a state in the midst of the same broad epidemiological transition affecting India as a whole, a declining but not eliminated communicable disease burden alongside a rising non-communicable disease burden associated with changing diets, urbanization, and lifestyle patterns. Tuberculosis has historically posed a particular challenge in Mizoram and the wider Northeastern region, and the state's TB elimination programme, aligned with the national target of TB elimination, continues to require sustained case-finding, treatment adherence support, and nutritional support for affected patients, given tuberculosis's well-documented association with undernutrition.

HIV prevalence in Mizoram has historically been recorded as one of the higher state-level rates in India, a legacy of the state's position along historical injecting drug use and cross-border trafficking routes linked to the Golden Triangle region, and the state's HIV/AIDS response, coordinated through the Mizoram State AIDS Control Society, continues to combine harm reduction, antiretroviral therapy access, and prevention programming targeted at both general population and identified higher-risk groups. On

non-communicable disease, hypertension, diabetes, and cancer, particularly cancers historically associated with tobacco and areca nut, or betel nut, chewing, a widely prevalent habit across Mizo society, represent a growing share of the disease burden and health system caseload, consistent with patterns observed across the wider Northeastern region, where oral and gastric cancers occur at comparatively elevated rates linked to regional dietary and chewing tobacco practices.

6.3 Maternal and Child Health: MMR, IMR, Under-5 Mortality and Nutrition

Maternal and child health represents an area of genuinely striking achievement for Mizoram, and also an area where more recent survey data reveals a more complicated underlying picture than the state's headline national rankings suggest. Mizoram recorded the lowest Infant Mortality Rate of any Indian state for two consecutive years according to Sample Registration System data, with an IMR of three deaths per 1,000 live births, ahead of Nagaland at four and Sikkim and Goa at five each, against a national average IMR of 28 for the same reference period, an improvement the state's Health Department attributed to coordinated effort across health, education, public health engineering, and rural development departments rather than to the health sector alone (Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Sample Registration System Bulletin, as reported by Deccan Herald, 2022). This IMR figure represented a dramatic improvement from 27 per 1,000 live births in 2016 to 15 in 2017, five in 2018, and three in 2019, an unusually steep four-year decline (Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Sample Registration System Bulletin, as reported by Deccan Herald, 2022).

However, National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21) data introduces an important qualification to this success story. While Mizoram showed considerable improvement in IMR and Under-Five Mortality Rate consistent with the SRS trend described above, its Neonatal Mortality Rate, deaths within the first 28 days of life, remained unchanged over the same five-year period, placing Mizoram among a small group of states, alongside Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura, that recorded an increase or stagnation in neonatal mortality even as overall infant mortality improved (Down To Earth, 2020, analysis of NFHS-5 data; Factly, 2020, analysis of NFHS-5 data). NFHS-5 further found that, unlike the pattern in most other surveyed states where infant deaths cluster more heavily in rural areas, Mizoram was one of only two states, alongside West Bengal, where neonatal death rates were higher in urban areas than rural areas, a genuinely counterintuitive finding that this framework flags as warranting dedicated state-level investigation, since it runs contrary to the general assumption that urban proximity to health facilities should reduce neonatal risk relative to rural areas (Down To Earth, 2020, analysis of NFHS-5 data).

At the national level, comparable indicators show the direction of travel that Mizoram's own health system is working within: India's Maternal Mortality Ratio fell from 103 per 100,000 live births in 2017-19 to 97 per 100,000 live births in 2018-20, national Infant Mortality Rate fell from 32 per 1,000 live births in 2018 to 28 in 2020, and national Total Fertility Rate fell from 2.2 in NFHS-4 (2015-16) to 2.0 in NFHS-5 (2019-21) (Ministry of Health and Family

Welfare, 2023). Mizoram's own Total Fertility Rate under NFHS-5 sits below the national replacement-level benchmark of 2.1, consistent with the broader pattern among medium and large Indian states surveyed in NFHS-5, though state-specific district-level nutrition indicators tracked through the Poshan Tracker system for the 0 to 5 age group between February 2023 and 2025 continue to be monitored by the state's Social Welfare Department as part of the nutrition programming discussed in Section 6.6 (Indiastat, citing Poshan Tracker data, 2023-2025).

6.4 Universal Health Coverage: State Health Assurance Schemes

Mizoram has developed a dedicated state health assurance architecture built around the Mizoram Universal Health Care Scheme, which operates alongside and in coordination with the central Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, offering residents a combined package of health coverage delivered through what the state calls a Golden Card enrolment process linking eligible beneficiaries to both central and state scheme benefits (Government of Mizoram, Health and Family Welfare Department, 2026). This dual-track approach, layering a state-funded universal scheme on top of the central PM-JAY entitlement, reflects a deliberate state policy choice to extend health coverage beyond the specific below-poverty-line and identified vulnerable population categories that PM-JAY alone targets, toward a more genuinely universal coverage model for the state's resident population, an approach relatively uncommon among India's smaller and more fiscally constrained states given the recurring expenditure commitment such a universal scheme entails.

The National Health Mission continues to provide substantial supplementary financing for Mizoram's health system strengthening, rural and urban healthcare delivery, and reproductive and child health programming, with state-wise National Health Mission expenditure tracked through Financial Management Reports submitted to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2024). As with the fiscal dependence pattern documented in Chapter 2, Mizoram's health system, like most of its public service delivery architecture, depends substantially on central scheme financing layered on top of the state's own health budget, meaning the sustainability of the state's more ambitious universal coverage ambitions will depend in part on the continued availability and predictability of this central financing stream.

6.5 Mental Health Services: Availability, Access and Stigma Reduction

Mizoram has established a State Mental Health Authority as the institutional anchor for mental health service governance and programme implementation under the National Mental Health Programme framework, reflecting a growing, though still developing, state-level institutional commitment to mental health service delivery (Government of Mizoram, Health and Family Welfare Department, 2026). Mental health service availability in Mizoram faces the same specialist-scarcity constraint that recurs across this framework's discussion of health and education human resources, with psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, and psychiatric social workers concentrated overwhelmingly at Zoram Medical College and a small number

of other facilities in Aizawl, leaving the more remote districts substantially dependent on primary health workers with limited specialized mental health training, supplemented where possible by tele-mental health consultation linkages to central facilities.

The state's strong church and community institutional architecture, discussed in Chapter 1, plays a genuinely significant role in Mizoram's de facto mental health support ecosystem, providing pastoral counselling, peer support, and community-based crisis response that in many other states would fall entirely to a formal, and typically under-resourced, public mental health system. This framework recommends that Mizoram's mental health strategy explicitly formalize collaborative referral and training pathways between the formal public mental health system and church and civil society counselling networks, an approach that would build on an existing social asset rather than attempting to replicate, at high fiscal cost, a purely clinical mental health infrastructure model designed for denser, more secular urban contexts.

Substance use disorder treatment represents a particularly important intersection between mental health services and Mizoram's well-documented, historically severe challenge with alcohol and drug abuse, discussed further in this framework's governance chapter (Chapter 15) in relation to the state's prohibition policy, and addressed programmatically through both state health system de-addiction services and the extensive civil society and church-led anti-drug and anti-alcohol advocacy work led by organizations including the Young Mizo Association.

6.6 Nutrition Programmes: ICDS, Mid-Day Meal and Poshan Abhiyaan

The Integrated Child Development Services scheme, delivered through Anganwadi Centres, forms the backbone of Mizoram's early childhood nutrition and development programming, providing supplementary nutrition, health check-ups, immunization referral, and pre-school non-formal education to children under six and to pregnant and lactating women, coordinated by the state's Social Welfare Department. As with other dispersed rural service delivery challenges documented throughout this chapter, ICDS coverage in Mizoram must contend with the logistical demands of maintaining Anganwadi Centre density and supply chain reliability, particularly for supplementary nutrition commodities, across numerous small and often remote villages.

The Mid-Day Meal Scheme, now operating under the rebranded PM POSHAN framework, continues to provide a daily cooked meal to government and government-aided school students, serving both a direct nutritional function and, as documented in the education literature more broadly, a demonstrated positive effect on school attendance and retention, an effect this framework flags as particularly relevant given the elevated dropout rates documented in Chapter 5. Poshan Abhiyaan, the National Nutrition Mission, provides the overarching convergence framework under which Mizoram's ICDS, PM POSHAN, and health system nutrition interventions are intended to be coordinated, tracked, and targeted, with the Poshan Tracker digital platform now providing granular, near-real-time data on child nutrition indicators including stunting, wasting, and underweight prevalence at the

Anganwadi Centre level, data that the state's Social Welfare Department has used to monitor malnutrition indicators for the 0 to 5 age group across the 2023 to 2025 period (Indiastat, citing Poshan Tracker data, 2023-2025).

Notwithstanding Mizoram's comparatively favourable IMR and broader health indicator profile documented in Section 6.3, the state, in common with most of India, has not been immune to the persistent national pattern, documented in successive NFHS rounds, of only modest progress on child nutrition indicators such as stunting and wasting even where mortality indicators have improved substantially, underscoring that nutrition status and mortality risk, while related, do not move in perfect lockstep and require continued, dedicated programmatic attention independent of the state's genuinely strong mortality indicator performance.

6.7 Population Stabilisation and Family Planning

Mizoram's demographic transition, discussed in Chapter 1, is well advanced relative to many Indian states, with a Total Fertility Rate under NFHS-5 already below the national replacement-level benchmark of 2.1, consistent with the broader pattern among India's more literate and urbanized states (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2023, national comparative context).

This places Mizoram's family planning policy priority less on aggregate fertility reduction, which is already well advanced, and more on ensuring quality, choice, and access within the state's family planning service delivery, including a full range of modern contraceptive method options, spacing method access for young married couples, and continued attention to adolescent reproductive health education, an area where the state's overwhelmingly Christian religious composition and strong church institutional presence, discussed in Chapter 1, shapes both the cultural context for such programming and the potential for constructive church-government partnership in delivering it.

Population stabilization policy in Mizoram must also account for the significant and growing presence of Myanmar nationals who have entered the state since the 2021 coup in Myanmar, discussed in Chapter 1, a population whose health and family planning service needs fall partly within the state health system's practical service delivery responsibility even though this population is not formally counted within Mizoram's usual resident population for Census or health planning denominator purposes, a data and planning gap this framework flags as requiring dedicated attention from both the state Health Department and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

6.8 Health System Strengthening and Future Preparedness

Taken together, the evidence reviewed in this chapter points to a health system with a genuinely strong record on core mortality indicators, most strikingly Mizoram's multi-year

run as the state with the lowest Infant Mortality Rate in India, achieved through what state officials themselves have characterized as a multi-departmental, not purely health-sector, effort spanning education, public health engineering, and rural development (Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Sample Registration System Bulletin, as reported by Deccan Herald, 2022). At the same time, this chapter has identified specific areas requiring continued and, in some cases, urgent attention: the anomalous neonatal mortality stagnation and urban-rural reversal documented in Section 6.3, the specialist and mental health workforce scarcity documented in Sections 6.1 and 6.5, the rising non-communicable and tobacco and areca-nut-linked cancer burden documented in Section 6.2, and the population planning and service delivery complexities introduced by cross-border displacement from Myanmar documented in Section 6.7.

This framework's health system strengthening priorities for the period to 2030 centre on four areas. First, dedicated investigation and targeted intervention on Mizoram's specific neonatal mortality and urban neonatal death pattern, treating it as a distinct problem from the state's broader, and genuinely strong, infant and under-five mortality performance. Second, expansion of Zoram Medical College's specialist training output and a structured specialist deployment or incentive scheme to improve district-level and remote facility specialist coverage, building on the hub-and-spoke service delivery model recommended in Chapter 5 for special education. Third, formal integration of church and civil society mental health and substance use support networks into the state's National Mental Health Programme implementation architecture, recognizing and building on an existing social asset rather than treating community-based support as separate from or subordinate to formal clinical service delivery. Fourth, continued investment in the state's already comparatively strong health data infrastructure, including the GIS-based facility mapping and Poshan Tracker systems documented in this chapter, extended where feasible to better capture the health service needs of the state's cross-border displaced population.

The chapter that follows turns from health to the wider social justice, inclusion, and community welfare architecture within which Mizoram's health, education, and economic development efforts, discussed across this and preceding chapters, are ultimately embedded.

Chapter 7: Social Justice, Inclusion and Community Welfare

7.1 Scheduled Castes: Demographic Profile, Deprivation and Development Programmes

Mizoram's Scheduled Caste population is numerically among the smallest of any Indian state, reflecting the state's overwhelmingly tribal demographic composition documented in Chapter 1, where Scheduled Tribes constitute the vast majority of the resident population. The Scheduled Caste category in Mizoram is concentrated primarily among small non-tribal migrant and settled communities, and district-wise Scheduled Caste population data collected in the 2011 Census, maintained through state demographic records, shows this population dispersed thinly across the state rather than concentrated in identifiable Scheduled Caste-majority settlements of the kind found in many mainland states (Government of India, 2011).

Because Mizoram's Scheduled Caste population is so small in absolute and proportional terms, targeted Scheduled Caste welfare programming in the state operates at a fundamentally different scale than in larger states with substantial Scheduled Caste populations, and state Social Welfare Department resources allocated to Scheduled Caste-specific schemes, including scholarship programmes, hostel facilities, and economic development schemes under central Scheduled Caste sub-plan and post-matric scholarship frameworks, are correspondingly modest in scale even as per-beneficiary coverage can, in principle, be more comprehensive given the smaller target population. This framework recommends that Mizoram's Scheduled Caste welfare programming continue to prioritize full utilization of available central scholarship and hostel scheme allocations, since underutilization risk, discussed in Chapter 2's public financial management findings, applies as much to small, targeted welfare allocations as to larger capital budget lines.

7.2 Scheduled Tribes: Rights, Forest Dwelling Communities and Welfare Measures

Scheduled Tribes constitute the overwhelming majority of Mizoram's population, a demographic reality that fundamentally distinguishes the state's approach to Scheduled Tribe welfare policy from most other Indian states, where Scheduled Tribe welfare programming typically targets a minority population within a larger, non-tribal-majority state. In Mizoram, by contrast, mainstream state governance, land tenure, and local self-government structures, discussed in Chapter 1, are themselves substantially built around and shaped by tribal customary institutions, meaning Scheduled Tribe welfare and rights protection in Mizoram operates less as a targeted minority-inclusion programme and more as the foundational framework of the state's entire governance and development architecture.

The Sixth Schedule to the Constitution and Article 371G together provide the core constitutional protection for Mizoram's tribal population, safeguarding customary land tenure, religious and social practices, and civil and criminal justice administration according to Mizo customary law, subject to Assembly resolution for the application of specific parliamentary Acts, as discussed in Chapter 4 in relation to land and investment policy. The Forest Rights Act, 2006, which in most Indian states functions as the primary legal instrument for recognizing individual and community forest rights of forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes, applies within Mizoram in a context already shaped by the state's own well-established

community and Village Council-based forest and land management customs, meaning Forest Rights Act implementation in Mizoram engages with an already-functioning customary tenure system rather than filling a governance vacuum, a distinction that shapes both the pace and the practical modality of Forest Rights Act implementation in the state relative to mainland tribal areas.

7.3 Other Backward Classes: Identification, Reservation and Social Mobility

As with the Scheduled Caste category discussed in Section 7.1, the Other Backward Classes category carries limited numerical and programmatic weight within Mizoram's social justice architecture, given the state's overwhelming Scheduled Tribe demographic majority and the corresponding structure of the state's reservation and welfare policy, which is oriented predominantly around Scheduled Tribe status rather than the Scheduled Caste and Other Backward Classes distinctions that dominate social justice policy discourse in most mainland Indian states. Where Other Backward Classes welfare and reservation provisions do apply in Mizoram, they follow the general national framework for central government recruitment, educational institution admission, and scheme eligibility, administered by the state's Social Welfare Department in coordination with central ministries.

7.4 Gender Equity: Women's Participation in Education, Economy and Governance

Gender equity in Mizoram presents one of the sharpest and most well-documented paradoxes examined anywhere in this framework. On education and civic participation indicators, Mizo women perform strongly: female literacy stood at 89.27 percent at the 2011 Census, close to the male literacy rate of 93.35 percent and far above the national female literacy average (Census2011.co.in, citing Government of India Census data, 2011), and women have consistently outnumbered men on Mizoram's electoral rolls in recent years, with the gender ratio on the state's electoral rolls recorded at 1,066 women per 1,000 men as of the final electoral roll published in January 2025, comfortably surpassing the national electoral gender ratio of 948 for the same period, and with 448,925 women electors outnumbering 420,888 male electors by 28,037 (Election Department, Government of Mizoram, as reported by IANS/newkerala.com, 2025).

Yet this strong female educational and electoral participation stands in stark contrast to Mizoram's political representation outcomes. The state's 40-member Legislative Assembly had no woman legislator at all following the 2018 Assembly election, and had elected only four women MLAs across its entire history as a state assembly prior to the 2023 election, beginning with L. Thanmawii, the first woman elected to the Mizoram Assembly, in 1978 (The Quint, 2023). The 2023 Assembly election marked a genuine historic shift, with three women, Lalrinpuii and Baryl Vanneihsang of the Zoram People's Movement and Pravo Chakma of the Mizo National Front, elected from among 16 women candidates out of 174 total candidates, the first time more than one woman had been elected to the Mizoram Assembly since elections began in 1972 (ISAS, National University of Singapore, 2023).

Notably, the Mizo National Front, which had governed the state for the preceding term, did not field a single woman candidate in the 2018 election that produced an all-male Assembly, and since statehood in 1987, only three women have ever been appointed as ministers in the Mizoram state government (ISAS, National University of Singapore, 2023).

This gap between strong female civic engagement and persistently weak formal political representation is not unique to Mizoram among Indian states, but the scale of the gap, a state with among the strongest female literacy and voter turnout indicators in the country combined with, until 2023, no sitting women legislators at all, is unusual and, this framework argues, deserves sustained state-level policy attention independent of the general national conversation about women's political representation. Contributing factors identified in the available literature include limited party ticket allocation to women candidates, the historically male-dominated structure of Village Council and customary leadership institutions discussed in Chapter 1, which often serve as a pipeline into formal electoral politics, and broader social and cultural expectations around women's roles that, notwithstanding Mizoram's strong educational gender parity, have continued to constrain women's entry into formal elected office. This framework recommends that the state's Gender Strategy work, already reflected in sector-specific programming such as the gender-inclusive approach adopted in the state's climate-resilient upland farming systems project, be extended into a dedicated, cross-departmental women's political and economic leadership development initiative, working in partnership with political parties, Village Councils, and civil society bodies including the Mizoram chapter of national women's organizations, to translate the state's strong underlying female human capital base into more proportionate representation in both elected office and senior public administration (Government of Mizoram, Focus on Northeast Region, Gender Strategy documentation, 2026).

7.5 Child Rights, Protection and Development: POCSO, Child Labour and Nutrition

Child protection architecture in Mizoram operates through the state's Child Protection Society, District Child Protection Units, and Child Welfare Committees established under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, alongside dedicated Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act implementation machinery, including POCSO-designated courts and special public prosecutors, consistent with the national child protection legal framework. As with other specialized service delivery functions discussed throughout this framework, the practical reach of child protection institutions into Mizoram's more remote districts faces the same dispersed-settlement capacity constraint documented in the education and health chapters, meaning District Child Protection Unit staffing and specialized case management capacity in districts such as Lawngtlai, Siaha, and Saitual generally lag behind the capacity available in Aizawl district.

Child labour in Mizoram is comparatively less visible in the organized industrial sector, given the state's limited manufacturing base documented in Chapter 4, but child labour risk persists within the informal economy discussed in Chapter 3, including in agricultural work, domestic

work, and small-scale informal trade, and the state government's child labour eradication efforts operate primarily through school retention initiatives, discussed in Chapter 5, on the well-established premise that improved school retention is among the most effective available levers against child labour incidence. Child nutrition indicators, discussed in Chapter 6 in relation to ICDS, PM POSHAN, and Poshan Abhiyaan programming, form the third pillar of the state's child rights and development architecture, with continued national-level evidence that nutrition status improvement has lagged mortality indicator improvement, a pattern this framework has already flagged in Chapter 6 as warranting continued dedicated attention in Mizoram specifically.

7.6 Welfare of Elderly Persons: Pension, Care Infrastructure and Policy

Elderly welfare policy in Mizoram operates through the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme and complementary state pension top-up provisions administered by the Social Welfare Department, alongside a still-developing formal elder care infrastructure that, consistent with the pattern documented throughout Chapter 1's discussion of church and community institutions, continues to rely substantially on family, church, and community-based care networks rather than formal institutional elder care facilities, which remain limited in number and concentrated primarily in Aizawl. As Mizoram's demographic transition, discussed in Chapter 1 and Section 6.7, continues to advance and the state's population age structure gradually shifts toward a larger elderly cohort over coming decades, this framework recommends that state planning begin now to assess the adequacy of both pension coverage and formal elder care infrastructure capacity for a population that will, within the twenty-year horizon of this framework's Vision 2047 chapter, look demographically quite different from today's comparatively youthful population structure.

7.7 Persons with Disabilities: Rights, Accessibility and Empowerment

Disability welfare and rights protection in Mizoram operates under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 framework, with the state's Health and Family Welfare Department maintaining disability certification and Unique Disability ID (UDID) issuance guidelines as part of its broader health administration functions, discussed in Chapter 6 (Government of Mizoram, Health and Family Welfare Department, 2026). As with elder care and specialized child protection services, disability service delivery in Mizoram faces the compounding effect of dispersed rural settlement patterns discussed throughout this framework, meaning accessible infrastructure, assistive technology availability, and specialized rehabilitation and therapy services remain concentrated overwhelmingly in Aizawl, with more limited reach into the state's remoter districts.

Accessibility standards for public buildings, transport, and digital government services, discussed further in Chapter 16, remain an area of ongoing implementation challenge common to most Indian states but compounded in Mizoram's case by the terrain-driven construction cost premium discussed throughout this framework's infrastructure chapters, since accessible design retrofits and new construction in hill terrain carry a materially higher

cost than equivalent work in flat terrain, a factor this framework recommends be explicitly reflected in the state's disability infrastructure budgeting rather than treated as a cost equivalent to mainland state norms.

7.8 Minority Communities: Development, Representation and Welfare

Mizoram's religious composition, discussed in Chapter 1, makes Christians the overwhelming majority rather than a minority in the state, an inversion of the national pattern that shapes how "minority" welfare policy functions in Mizoram relative to most other Indian states. Within Mizoram, religious minority communities include Hindus, concentrated partly among the Bru community and among non-tribal settled populations, Buddhists, concentrated among the Chakma community in the Chakma Autonomous District Council area discussed in Chapter 1, and Muslims, a small population concentrated mainly in and around Aizawl and other urban centres.

Ethnic minority welfare within Mizoram's broader tribal-majority population is a more programmatically significant dimension of minority policy in the state than religious minority status, and it centres substantially on the Chakma, Mara, and Lai communities, each possessing their own Autonomous District Council as discussed in Chapter 1, and on the Bru (Reang) community, whose modern history in Mizoram has been shaped by displacement following ethnic tensions in the late 1990s that led to a substantial Bru population relocating to relief camps in neighbouring Tripura. Resettlement of displaced Bru families, under agreements brokered between the Government of India, the governments of Mizoram and Tripura, and Bru community representatives, has continued into the current planning period, and the successful social and economic integration of resettled Bru families, whether choosing to return to Mizoram or to remain resettled in Tripura, remains a live policy and welfare concern requiring continued coordination between the two state governments and the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

7.9 Social Security and Beneficiary-Linked Welfare Architecture

Mizoram's social security and welfare architecture, drawing together the threads examined throughout this chapter, combines central scheme delivery, the National Social Assistance Programme, the Indira Gandhi National Old Age, Widow, and Disability Pension Schemes, PM-JAY and the state's own Universal Health Care Scheme discussed in Chapter 6, and the ICDS and PM POSHAN nutrition programmes discussed in the same chapter, with a distinctively strong layer of church, Young Mizo Association, and Village Council-based community welfare support that, as this framework has emphasized repeatedly, functions as a genuine and substantial complement to formal state welfare delivery rather than a mere cultural backdrop to it.

This framework's principal recommendation arising from this chapter is that Mizoram's social justice and welfare policy explicitly recognize and formalize partnership channels with these community institutions, the church denominations, the Young Mizo Association, Village Councils, and Village Development Boards, across each of the welfare domains examined in

this chapter, gender leadership development, child protection, elder care, disability support, and minority community integration, rather than treating formal government welfare delivery and community-based support as parallel, unconnected systems. Given the fiscal constraints on state welfare spending documented in Chapter 2, and the specialized-service delivery challenges posed by Mizoram's dispersed hill settlement geography documented throughout Chapters 5, 6, and this chapter, a more deliberately integrated state-community welfare delivery model represents one of the most cost-effective and culturally appropriate paths available to Mizoram for closing its remaining social justice and inclusion gaps over the period to 2047. The chapter that follows turns from the social welfare architecture examined here to the physical transport and connectivity infrastructure that underpins service delivery, economic activity, and regional integration across Mizoram's difficult hill terrain.

Chapter 8: Transport and Connectivity Infrastructure

8.1 Road Network: National Highways, State Highways and Rural Roads

Road transport has historically been, and despite the recent railway breakthrough discussed in Section 8.2 remains, the dominant mode of connectivity both within Mizoram and between the state and the rest of India. National Highway 6 (also designated NH-306 in the

renumbered national highway system), connecting Aizawl to Silchar in Assam, has long served as Mizoram's principal lifeline for the movement of essential goods, fuel, and passenger traffic, and the terrain-driven difficulty of this route is a recurring theme in accounts of daily life in the state: road transport between Aizawl and Silchar has typically required seven to ten hours, a duration residents have long cited as a direct driver of elevated consumer prices in Aizawl for goods transported over this route, since transportation cost is embedded directly into retail prices for a wide range of essential commodities (Deccan Herald, 2025).

The state's road network beyond this principal national highway corridor is organized through State Highways connecting district headquarters and major towns, and rural roads constructed and maintained substantially through the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), which in Mizoram's hill terrain carries a materially higher per-kilometre construction cost than in plains states, given the extensive cutting, retaining wall, and drainage work required to build stable roads on steep, geologically young hill slopes prone to the landslide risk discussed further in Chapter 14. Major road infrastructure investments announced and inaugurated in September 2025 alongside the Bairabi-Sairang railway line, discussed in Section 8.2, include the 45-kilometre Aizawl Bypass Road, a project valued at over Rs 500 crore under the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE) scheme, designed to decongest Aizawl city and improve connectivity to Lunglei, Siaha, Lawngtlai, Lengpui Airport, and Sairang Railway Station, alongside the Thenzawl-Sialsuk Road, the Khankawn-Rongura Road, and a new bridge over the Chhimtuipui River on the Lawngtlai-Siaha Road, intended to provide all-weather connectivity and reduce travel time on that route by two hours (Government of India, Prime Minister's Office, as reported by All India Radio News Services Division, 2025).

8.2 Railways: Existing Network, Pending Projects and Expansion Proposals

Mizoram's rail connectivity underwent its single most significant transformation in the state's history with the inauguration of the Bairabi-Sairang railway line on 13 September 2025 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, connecting Aizawl to the national railway network for the first time and making Mizoram the fourth Northeastern state capital to be linked by rail, following Guwahati, Agartala, and Itanagar's approximate connectivity milestones under Indian Railways' broader Northeastern connectivity programme (Travel Trade Journal, 2025; The Federal, 2025). The 51.38-kilometre broad-gauge line, constructed at a revised cost of approximately Rs 8,213.72 crore (reported variously as Rs 8,070 crore and Rs 8,071 crore in different official releases around the time of inauguration), connects Bairabi in Kolasib district, on the Assam-Mizoram border, to Sairang, located approximately 20 kilometres from Aizawl city centre and roughly 12 kilometres from Lengpui Airport (ForumIAS, 2025; NewsOnAir, 2025; Deccan Herald, 2025).

The engineering scale of the line reflects the severity of Mizoram's hill terrain challenge discussed throughout this framework: the route required 48 tunnels with a combined length of 12.85 kilometres, the longest single tunnel measuring approximately 1.37 kilometres,

alongside 55 major bridges and 87 to 88 minor bridges, including the Krung Bridge at Sairang, which at 114 metres above its base foundation is among the tallest railway bridge structures associated with the project (ForumIAS, 2025; NewsOnAir, 2025). Construction spanned approximately two decades from initial approval to commissioning, with the Commissioner of Railway Safety certifying the line in June 2025 ahead of the September 2025 formal inauguration (Travel Trade Journal, 2025).

On inauguration, three new long-distance express services were flagged off connecting Aizawl (via Sairang) directly to major national hubs for the first time: a Rajdhani Express to Delhi (Anand Vihar Terminal), and express services to Guwahati and Kolkata, journeys that previously required combined road and rail travel via Silchar (Travel Trade Journal, 2025). The line is also expected to reduce the effective travel time between Silchar and Aizawl from approximately eight hours by road to approximately three hours by train, a change with direct implications for the consumer price and logistics cost dynamics discussed in Chapter 3, Section 3.8 (The Federal, 2025).

Looking forward, the Bairabi-Sairang line is explicitly conceived within Indian Railways' planning as a precursor to further rail expansion toward Myanmar, with the first phase of a survey for a 223-kilometre rail extension from Sairang to Hmawngbuchhuah, near the India-Myanmar border, completed as early as August 2015 and a final location survey reported to be underway as of the 2025 inauguration period, an extension explicitly intended to eventually connect with the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar's Rakhine State, discussed further in Section 8.4 and in Chapter 4 (The Federal, 2025). This planned extension is also part of Indian Railways' wider stated ambition to connect Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Sikkim to the national rail network by 2030, positioning the Bairabi-Sairang line as both a standalone achievement for Mizoram and the first segment of a larger regional rail expansion programme (ForumIAS, 2025).

8.3 Aviation: Airport Infrastructure and Air Connectivity

Lengpui Airport, located approximately 32 kilometres from Aizawl, remains Mizoram's sole functioning airport and, prior to the September 2025 railway inauguration, had for decades served alongside the road network as one of only two practical connectivity modes linking the state to the rest of India, a reality state and national officials explicitly referenced in describing the historic significance of the new rail link (Deccan Herald, 2025). Air connectivity from Lengpui has been supported by the Government of India's UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) regional connectivity scheme, which has subsidized select routes to and from smaller and remote airports including Lengpui, helping sustain scheduled commercial air services that might not otherwise be commercially viable given Mizoram's small passenger market size.

Given the terrain constraints on further national highway capacity expansion and the still-developing scope of the new rail line's passenger and freight capacity, this framework anticipates that air connectivity will remain an important, if smaller-volume, connectivity mode for Mizoram over the coming decade, particularly for time-sensitive passenger travel,

medical evacuation, and high-value, low-bulk freight, even as the rail line absorbs a growing share of bulk freight and lower-cost long-distance passenger movement.

8.4 Ports, Inland Waterways and Logistics Hubs

Mizoram, as a landlocked state, possesses no direct port access, and its rivers, discussed in Chapter 1, are not navigable for significant commercial cargo, meaning the state has no meaningful inland waterway transport capacity of its own. The state's most significant prospective connection to maritime logistics is indirect, through the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, which is designed to connect Indian ports to Mizoram via Myanmar's Sittwe port and the Kaladan river and road corridor within Myanmar territory, a project discussed in Chapter 4 in relation to its investment and trade implications and referenced again here as the principal, though not yet operational, logistics corridor that would give Mizoram meaningful indirect maritime access for the first time.

Sairang, the new railhead near Aizawl discussed in Section 8.2, has been explicitly identified by state and railway officials as a prospective hub for goods arriving via the Kaladan project route from Myanmar's Sittwe port, positioning the new rail line as a critical piece of last-mile connectivity that would link a future functioning Kaladan corridor to the Indian national transport network, though realization of this full multimodal chain, from Sittwe port through Myanmar to Sairang and onward via rail into India, remains contingent on both the completion of remaining Kaladan project infrastructure and the security and political situation within Myanmar, discussed in Chapter 4 (ForumIAS, 2025).

8.5 Urban Mass Transit: Metro, Bus Rapid Transit and Integrated Mobility

Urban mass transit infrastructure in Mizoram remains at an early stage of development, consistent with the state's small urban population base relative to the scale of investment typically associated with formal metro or Bus Rapid Transit systems in larger Indian cities. Aizawl's own urban transport challenges are shaped less by the scale considerations that drive metro investment decisions in larger cities and more by the city's genuinely difficult hill topography, characterized by narrow ridge-top and valley-side road alignments that create chronic traffic congestion at peak periods despite the city's comparatively modest total population.

The Aizawl Bypass Road project discussed in Section 8.1, explicitly designed to decongest Aizawl city, represents the state's most significant current urban mobility intervention, alongside more localized traffic management, parking, and road widening initiatives undertaken by the Aizawl Municipal Corporation, discussed in Chapter 1. This framework recommends that as Aizawl's urban population continues to grow, discussed in Chapter 11's treatment of urbanisation trends, the state government begin longer-term planning for more structured public transport solutions, potentially including dedicated bus corridor and terminal infrastructure, calibrated specifically to Aizawl's hill-city topography rather than modelled directly on plains-city transit solutions.

8.6 Multimodal Logistics: Last-Mile Connectivity and Freight Corridors

Drawing together the road, rail, air, and prospective riverine and port connectivity threads examined in this chapter, Mizoram's multimodal logistics position as of 2026 is best characterized as being in the midst of its most significant transformation since statehood, anchored by the September 2025 rail line inauguration but still substantially dependent on road transport for last-mile distribution across the state's dispersed hill settlements documented throughout this framework.

The practical multimodal logistics priority for the period covered by this framework is the effective integration of the new Sairang railhead into the state's existing road-based distribution network, ensuring that the reduced bulk transport costs and travel times achieved on the Bairabi-Sairang and onward mainline rail corridor, discussed in Section 8.2, translate into genuine last-mile cost and price benefits for consumers and producers across all eleven districts, rather than benefits concentrated narrowly around Aizawl and the immediate rail corridor. This requires continued investment in the district and rural road network discussed in Section 8.1, warehousing and freight consolidation infrastructure at Sairang and at key distribution points such as Champhai and Lunglei, discussed in Chapter 4 as emerging trade and logistics centres, and close coordination between the state's Public Works Department, the Northeast Frontier Railway, and the Commerce and Industries Department's logistics policy framework discussed in Chapter 4 to ensure the state's freight and passenger transport planning functions as a genuinely integrated multimodal system rather than as separate, uncoordinated road, rail, and air transport programmes. The next chapter turns to Mizoram's energy and power infrastructure, itself both a beneficiary of and a contributor to the connectivity and construction capacity discussed throughout this chapter.

Chapter 9: Energy, Power and Renewable Transition

9.1 Power Generation: Installed Capacity, Mix and Dependence Profile

Mizoram's power sector is defined by a persistent and, as of 2026, still widening gap between the state's own generation capacity and its actual electricity demand, a gap that state officials have identified as the single most pressing structural challenge facing the sector. According to

Power and Electricity Department officials, Mizoram's installed power generation capacity stood at 50.20 MW as of mid-2026, yet actual local generation meets only around 10 percent of the state's total electricity requirement, with the remaining approximately 90 percent imported from central and interstate generating stations at a cost the state government reported as approximately Rs 649.54 crore annually on power purchases alone, excluding transmission charges (Daily Pioneer, 2026; EastMojo, 2026a).

A separate, slightly more recent industry analysis placed installed capacity, inclusive of hydro and solar sources, at 139.16 MW as of January 2026, a figure that differs from the Power Department's own 50.20 MW generation capacity figure, a discrepancy this framework attributes to differing scope, state government-owned generation versus total installed capacity inclusive of central and private sources located within the state, and flags for reconciliation in future state energy planning documents (EastMojo, 2026b).

Regardless of which figure is used as the precise baseline, the direction of the underlying finding is consistent and unambiguous across all sources consulted: Mizoram remains heavily import-dependent for its electricity supply, a vulnerability compounded by the state's peak power demand, recorded at 182 MW according to the twentieth Electric Power Survey, and projected to rise to approximately 213 MW by 2030 (Daily Pioneer, 2026; EastMojo, 2026a). The Central Electricity Authority has separately warned that Mizoram could face energy deficits of up to 40 million units between FY 2028-29 and FY 2034-35 if new generation projects are delayed, a risk the Authority explicitly linked to the terrain challenges and financing constraints that have historically slowed hill-state infrastructure construction throughout this framework's preceding chapters (EastMojo, 2026b). Mizoram's electricity requirement and peak demand are themselves projected to grow at approximately 4 percent and 3 percent per year respectively between FY 2025-26 and FY 2035-36, meaning the state's import dependence is on track to widen in absolute terms even if new generation capacity is added at a measured pace (EastMojo, 2026b).

Within the state's own generation mix, hydropower has historically provided the largest share of locally generated electricity, led by the Tuirial Hydroelectric Project, a 60 MW facility operational since 2017 that remains the state's single largest generating asset, and the smaller Serlui B Hydroelectric Project, at 12 MW (Mizoram PSC Notes, compiling Power and Electricity Department data). Solar generation has grown from a negligible base over the past decade, supported by national schemes discussed in Section 9.4, though it remains a comparatively small contributor to total generation relative to its longer-term potential.

9.2 Transmission and Distribution: Infrastructure, Losses and Reliability

Mizoram's transmission and distribution infrastructure faces the same terrain-driven cost and reliability challenges documented throughout this framework's infrastructure chapters. Dispersed hill settlements, discussed in Chapter 1, require a proportionally longer transmission and distribution network per connected household than would be needed in denser plains settlements, raising both capital and maintenance costs and increasing the network's exposure to landslide, storm, and seismic disruption risk, discussed further in

Chapter 14. The state's participation in the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), a central government programme aimed at modernizing grid infrastructure, reducing Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, and improving last-mile reliability, represents the primary current policy instrument through which Mizoram is working to upgrade this network (EastMojo, 2026b).

Grid reliability in Mizoram is directly affected by the import dependence documented in Section 9.1, since supply interruptions on the interstate transmission corridors that carry the bulk of the state's electricity have historically translated more directly into local supply disruption than would be the case in a state with a larger buffer of local generation capacity. This framework identifies transmission and distribution modernization, specifically loss reduction and climate-resilient grid design capable of withstanding the landslide and storm risks discussed in Chapter 14, as a priority investment area closely linked to, but analytically distinct from, the generation capacity expansion priority discussed in Section 9.1.

9.3 Rural and Household Electrification: Coverage and Quality

Mizoram has achieved near-universal formal household electrification coverage, consistent with national achievement under the Saubhagya (Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana) scheme and its successor rural electrification programming, and an industry analysis of the state's power sector explicitly noted that electricity in Mizoram has reached the last mile even as the state's underlying energy ecosystem remains fragile, a distinction this framework considers important: formal connection coverage and reliable, adequate power supply are not the same achievement, and Mizoram's experience illustrates a state that has succeeded on the former while continuing to face substantial challenges on the latter (EastMojo, 2026b).

The state's own stated target under its 2030 energy roadmap is to ensure electricity for all households while simultaneously increasing the share of renewable energy in its generation mix from 31 percent to 40 percent, a dual objective that links universal access directly to the renewable transition agenda discussed in Section 9.4 (EastMojo, 2026b).

9.4 Renewable Energy Potential: Solar, Wind, Hydro and Biomass

Mizoram possesses substantial renewable energy potential relative to its current installed capacity and current demand, a gap between potential and realization that this framework identifies as the central strategic opportunity for the state's energy sector over the period to 2047. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has estimated the state's renewable energy potential at 9,090 MW in solar power, 1,926.7 MW in large hydropower, and 168.9 MW in small hydropower (EastMojo, 2026b), figures broadly consistent with an earlier, separately sourced estimate of approximately 4,500 MW in overall hydropower potential and 9 to 10 GW in solar potential (Mizoram PSC Notes, compiling Central Water Commission and National Solar Mission data). Set against current installed capacity in the range of 50 to 139 MW, discussed in Section 9.1, these potential figures represent a resource base many times larger than what has so far been developed, underscoring that Mizoram's power sector

constraint is overwhelmingly one of capital investment, project execution, and grid integration capacity, discussed further below, rather than of underlying resource availability.

The state government has responded to this gap with a concrete near-term hydropower expansion initiative, the proposed 132 MW Tuivai Hydroelectric Project on the Tuivai River in Saitual district, near the Manipur border, estimated to cost Rs 2,289.50 crore and targeted for completion within five years of tender award (Daily Pioneer, 2026; EastMojo, 2026a). The project has a long and instructive history that illustrates the execution challenges discussed throughout this framework: originally surveyed by the Central Water Commission in 1992 with a proposed capacity of 210 MW, the project required redesign and re-survey after subsequent surveys found that parts of the originally proposed dam area extended into neighbouring Manipur, reducing the revised design's generation capacity to 132 MW (Construction World, 2026; Daily Pioneer, 2026). As of mid-2026, the Detailed Project Report had been completed and the project was ready for the tendering process, with the state government exploring implementation under a public-private partnership model and examining annual financial requirements with the Finance Department, discussed in Chapter 2 (Construction World, 2026).

On solar power, the state government invited tenders for new solar projects in November 2025 as part of a deliberate effort to diversify its energy portfolio beyond hydropower, which, while renewable, carries its own seasonal generation variability tied to monsoon rainfall patterns discussed in Chapter 1 (EastMojo, 2026b). This diversification strategy is reinforced by national solar sector momentum more broadly: India's cumulative installed solar capacity crossed 150 GW in FY2026, with annual capacity additions of 44.61 GW substantially exceeding the government's own 34 GW target for the year, positioning India as the world's third-largest cumulative solar market and on track to become the second-largest annual solar market in 2026, a national tailwind that Mizoram's own solar tendering push is positioned to draw on through falling technology costs and expanding supply chain and financing availability (Construction World, 2026, citing national solar sector data).

Biomass energy potential in Mizoram, while not quantified with the same specificity as solar and hydro in the sources reviewed for this framework, is closely linked to the state's substantial bamboo resource base discussed in Chapters 3 and 4, and this framework recommends that future state energy planning explicitly assess bamboo and other agricultural and forestry residue-based biomass generation potential as a complementary, dispatchable renewable resource capable of partially offsetting the seasonal variability inherent in both hydro and solar generation.

9.5 Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Demand-Side Management

Given the scale of Mizoram's generation-demand gap documented in Section 9.1, demand-side management and energy efficiency measures carry particular strategic importance for the state, since every unit of demand growth avoided through efficiency gains directly reduces the volume of costly imported power the state must purchase. National schemes relevant to Mizoram's demand-side management agenda include PM Surya Ghar, the

rooftop solar scheme aimed at reducing grid-purchased electricity for residential consumers, and PM KUSUM, which supports solar-powered agricultural pumping and, where implemented, can reduce agricultural sector electricity demand while simultaneously supporting the horticultural and agricultural productivity agenda discussed in Chapters 3 and 18 (EastMojo, 2026b).

Given that residential consumption constitutes the largest consumer category in Mizoram's electricity demand profile, with industrial and commercial consumption remaining minimal owing to the limited industrial base documented in Chapter 4, and agricultural electricity usage historically limited by continued reliance on traditional cultivation methods discussed in Chapter 3, this framework recommends that near-term demand-side management priority be given to residential energy efficiency programming, including efficient lighting and appliance adoption incentives and building design standards suited to Mizoram's hill climate, rather than industrial or agricultural demand-side interventions whose addressable demand base remains comparatively small at the state's current stage of economic development.

9.6 State Electricity Regulatory Framework and Tariff Policy

The Power and Electricity Department of the Government of Mizoram, supported by the state electricity regulatory framework, publishes annual tariff orders and aggregate revenue requirement petitions, with the tariff schedule for FY 2025-26 representing the most recent in a consistent annual publication cycle extending back through the preceding decade (Power and Electricity Department, Government of Mizoram, 2026). This regulatory publication discipline represents a genuine institutional strength, providing a transparent and predictable basis for both consumer tariff planning and the kind of investor and lender due diligence that will be increasingly important as the state seeks to attract public-private partnership investment in projects such as the Tuivai Hydroelectric Project discussed in Section 9.4.

Tariff policy in Mizoram must balance two competing pressures documented throughout this chapter: the state's need to recover the substantial and rising cost of imported power, approximately Rs 649.54 crore annually as documented in Section 9.1, against the imperative of maintaining affordable electricity access for a population whose per capita income, discussed in Chapter 3, remains modest by national standards even where it compares favourably on a per capita basis to the state's small population base. This framework recommends that the state's medium-term tariff strategy be explicitly linked to the renewable capacity expansion programme discussed in Section 9.4, on the reasoning that successful development of the state's own hydro and solar potential offers the most credible long-term path to reducing the imported-power cost burden that currently drives much of the pressure on consumer tariffs, more so than continued reliance on interstate power purchase agreements whose cost exposure is likely to remain volatile and largely outside the state's own policy control.

Taken together, the findings of this chapter position Mizoram's energy sector as a genuine strategic priority area for the 2026 to 2047 period covered by this framework, one where the gap between documented resource potential, some 9,000 MW of solar potential and nearly

2,100 MW of combined large and small hydropower potential, and current installed capacity of little more than 50 to 140 MW, represents both the state's most acute current infrastructure vulnerability and one of its clearest long-term development opportunities. The chapter that follows turns to water, sanitation and solid waste management, sectors whose infrastructure planning, like the power sector examined here, must contend directly with Mizoram's demanding hill terrain and dispersed settlement geography.

Chapter 10: Water, Sanitation and Solid Waste Management

10.1 Drinking Water Supply: Coverage, Quality and Infrastructure

Mizoram has achieved one of the most notable rural infrastructure milestones documented anywhere in this framework: on 6 May 2026, Chief Minister Lalduhoma announced that Mizoram had become one of the first states in India to achieve 100 percent implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission, providing functional tap water connections to 133,060 households across every district of the state, with all schools and Anganwadi Centres also covered under the initiative (IANS/Prokerala, 2026). This achievement places Mizoram among a select

group of ten states and union territories, including Goa, Telangana, Haryana, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh, Puducherry, and the union territories of Daman and Diu and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, that had reported 100 percent rural household tap water coverage as of the most recent national reporting cycle, well ahead of the national rural coverage figure of approximately 81 percent as of October 2025 (Dhyeya IAS, 2025; DD News, 2026, citing Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation data).

This achievement is genuinely significant given the terrain and settlement dispersal challenges documented throughout this framework's infrastructure chapters, and it stands as a rare instance where Mizoram's hill-state infrastructure delivery has outpaced, rather than lagged, the national average, a pattern this framework attributes in part to the same effective multi-departmental coordination that state health officials credited for the state's strong Infant Mortality Rate performance discussed in Chapter 6, since safe water access and infant and child health outcomes are well established as closely linked. Alongside the physical infrastructure milestone, the state government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti's Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation on the same date to roll out Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, signalling a transition in focus from initial connection coverage toward the functionality, water quality, and long-term sustainability agenda that now defines the national mission's next phase (IANS/Prokerala, 2026).

This next-phase agenda is important context for Mizoram's own planning, since national assessment of the Jal Jeevan Mission's broader rollout has found that while nearly universal tap connection coverage has been achieved nationally, only about three-quarters of connected households actually receive a regular, safe, and adequate water supply, exposing a persistent gap between formal coverage and functional service delivery (Sanskriti IAS, 2026). This framework recommends that Mizoram's own post-completion monitoring explicitly track this functionality gap at the household level, rather than treating the 100 percent connection milestone as the end point of the state's rural water security agenda, and that the state actively participate in the national mission's water quality surveillance architecture, including local laboratory testing capacity and community-based Field Testing Kit training for women, both identified as central pillars of the mission's next phase nationally (DD News, 2026).

10.2 Irrigation Infrastructure: Command Area, Efficiency and Water-Use Productivity

Irrigation infrastructure in Mizoram remains comparatively underdeveloped relative to the state's agricultural ambitions discussed in Chapters 3 and 18, a pattern consistent with the state's continued reliance on rain-fed jhum cultivation and, increasingly, terrace and Wet Rice Cultivation methods that depend more heavily on managed water diversion from hill streams than on large-scale canal irrigation systems of the kind found in the Indo-Gangetic plains.

The state's minor irrigation schemes, typically small check dams, diversion weirs, and lift irrigation systems serving individual valleys or clusters of terraced fields, are administered through the state's Irrigation and Water Resources Department and represent the dominant

irrigation infrastructure model given the practical impossibility of large gravity-fed canal networks across Mizoram's steep and fragmented terrain.

Water-use efficiency and productivity in Mizoram's irrigated agriculture is closely tied to the broader New Land Use Policy and Bana Kaih programme objectives discussed in Chapters 2 and 3, which seek to transition farmers from shifting cultivation toward permanent, irrigated or partially irrigated horticultural and Wet Rice Cultivation systems. This framework recommends that continued minor irrigation infrastructure investment be explicitly sequenced alongside the horticultural crop procurement and market linkage support already being extended under Bana Kaih, since irrigation investment without corresponding market access support, or market access support without adequate irrigation reliability, each independently risks under-delivering on the productivity gains the state's agricultural transition strategy is designed to achieve.

10.3 Sanitation and Open Defecation Free Status: Post-ODF Sustainability

Mizoram, in common with the great majority of Indian states, achieved formal Open Defecation Free status under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin during the mission's initial phase, and the state's sanitation policy focus has since shifted, in line with the national programme's own evolution, toward ODF Plus status, a more comprehensive standard encompassing not only continued open defecation free practice but also solid and liquid waste management and broader village-level sanitation infrastructure sustainability.

Nationally, 95 percent of India's villages, 560,897 of 586,707, had declared ODF Plus status as of early 2025, and Mizoram's own village-level ODF Plus achievement forms part of this national reporting framework (Deccan Herald, 2025, citing Ministry of Jal Shakti data).

The sustainability challenge for Mizoram's ODF achievement mirrors a pattern familiar from other sectors examined in this framework: initial infrastructure construction, toilet building in this case, has proceeded at a pace consistent with or ahead of national averages, but longer-term sustainability depends on continued behaviour change communication, functional toilet maintenance, and, critically, the solid and liquid waste management infrastructure discussed in Sections 10.4 and 10.5, without which formal ODF Plus status risks representing a construction milestone rather than a genuinely sustained public health outcome.

10.4 Solid Waste Management: Municipal, Biomedical and Hazardous Waste

Municipal solid waste management in Mizoram is administered primarily through the Aizawl Municipal Corporation for the capital city, discussed in Chapter 1, and through Town Councils and newly constituted Urban Local Bodies for the state's smaller urban centres, discussed further in Chapter 11's treatment of urban governance. As with several other infrastructure sectors examined in this framework, solid waste management in Mizoram's hill terrain faces distinctive engineering and logistics challenges: suitable, geologically stable sites for sanitary landfill or waste processing facilities are more constrained in hilly terrain

than in flat land, waste collection vehicle routing must navigate steep and narrow urban roads of the kind discussed in Chapter 8's account of Aizawl's traffic congestion, and the cost of transporting waste to designated processing or disposal sites is correspondingly higher than in plains cities.

Aizawl's rapid urban growth, discussed in Chapters 1 and 11, has placed increasing pressure on the city's solid waste management capacity, and the state's broader urban development strategy, discussed in Chapter 11, will need to give explicit attention to scientific waste processing capacity expansion, including composting and waste-to-resource initiatives suited to the city's terrain constraints, as a companion priority alongside the housing, transport, and municipal finance strengthening priorities discussed in that chapter. Biomedical waste management, governed by national Biomedical Waste Management Rules and implemented in coordination with the health facility network discussed in Chapter 6, and hazardous waste management, relevant primarily to the state's limited industrial and construction material processing activity discussed in Chapter 4, represent smaller but still important components of Mizoram's overall solid waste management responsibility, requiring dedicated collection, treatment, and disposal protocols distinct from general municipal solid waste handling.

10.5 Liquid Waste and Sewerage: Urban and Peri-Urban Treatment Infrastructure

Sewerage and liquid waste treatment infrastructure represents one of the least developed components of Mizoram's water and sanitation architecture relative to the drinking water supply achievement documented in Section 10.1, a pattern common to small hill-state urban centres across India, where underground sewerage network construction is both technically challenging, given steep gradients and rocky terrain, and historically lower priority relative to drinking water supply and basic sanitation access. Aizawl, as the state's largest and most rapidly urbanizing centre, carries the most immediate need for expanded and modernized sewerage and liquid waste treatment infrastructure, given the public health and environmental risk posed by inadequately treated liquid waste discharge into the hill streams and river systems discussed in Chapter 1, several of which serve as drinking water sources for downstream communities.

This framework recommends that liquid waste and sewerage infrastructure investment be treated as a distinct and, given current gaps, urgent priority within Mizoram's broader water and sanitation strategy for the period to 2030, sequenced explicitly alongside the ODF Plus sustainability agenda discussed in Section 10.3, since inadequate liquid waste treatment infrastructure directly undermines both the public health gains sought through the state's strong sanitation and drinking water achievements and the environmental and water resource protection objectives discussed further in Chapter 13's treatment of water body and river ecosystem health. The chapter that follows turns to Mizoram's urban development, housing, and Smart Cities agenda more broadly, within which the water, sanitation, and solid waste management priorities discussed in this chapter form a foundational component.

Chapter 11: Urban Development, Housing and Smart Cities

11.1 Urbanisation Trends and Urban Governance Architecture

Mizoram is, by a considerable margin, the most urbanized state in India's Northeastern region, and its urban population share, recorded at approximately 52 percent at the 2011 Census with urban population growth of 29.65 percent between 2001 and 2011 outpacing rural growth of 17.4 percent over the same decade, as documented in Chapter 1, continues to trend upward, driven overwhelmingly by continued migration toward Aizawl (Government of

India, 2011). This urbanization pattern is unusual for a hill state and reflects the specific combination of factors discussed throughout this framework: the diminishing economic viability of jhum cultivation under population pressure, discussed in Chapter 3, the concentration of government employment, higher education, and health services in Aizawl, discussed in Chapters 5 and 6, and the historical pattern of grouped village settlement that has long characterized Mizo society, which in some respects makes the transition to urban living a smaller cultural adjustment for Mizoram's population than the rural-to-urban transition experienced in many mainland states with a more dispersed traditional rural settlement pattern.

Urban governance architecture in Mizoram is anchored by the Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Department, established on 24 August 2006, which implements urban development, poverty alleviation, sanitation and waste management, and town and country planning programmes across the state's Census Towns and notified towns (Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Department, Government of Mizoram, 2026). Below the department level, the Aizawl Municipal Corporation, established in 2008 (with some sources citing 2010 as the year of full constitution), functions as the state's only full Municipal Corporation, consisting of 19 elected members representing 19 wards, with members appointed following elections conducted under the Governor of Mizoram's oversight (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, AMRUT programme documentation, citing Aizawl Municipal Corporation structure). Smaller towns across the state's eleven districts, discussed in Chapter 1, fall under Town Councils and a growing number of newly constituted Urban Local Bodies, reflecting the state's gradual extension of formal municipal governance beyond Aizawl as smaller towns cross urbanization and population thresholds.

11.2 Urban Local Bodies: Financial Health, Capacity and Service Delivery

Mizoram's Urban Local Bodies, discussed in Section 11.1, face a financial and institutional capacity profile shaped by the same fiscal dependence pattern documented in Chapter 2 at the state level, only more acute given the still-developing own-revenue base available to municipal bodies in a state where formal municipal governance beyond Aizawl remains a comparatively recent institutional development. Aizawl Municipal Corporation's own revenue base, drawn from property tax, trade licence fees, and municipal service charges, remains modest relative to the corporation's service delivery responsibilities across water supply coordination, solid waste management discussed in Chapter 10, local road maintenance, and municipal building and market administration, meaning the Corporation, like the state government itself, relies substantially on central and state grant transfers, including Finance Commission-mandated urban local body grants discussed in Chapter 2, to fund both operational and capital expenditure.

Smaller Town Councils and newly constituted Urban Local Bodies face an even more constrained own-revenue and institutional capacity position, given both their more recent establishment and the smaller scale of the urban populations and economic activity they serve. This framework recommends that the state's ongoing effort to extend municipal status

to a wider set of urbanizing centres, discussed in Chapter 1, be accompanied by a deliberate capacity-building and own-revenue development programme for each newly constituted Urban Local Body, rather than treating formal municipal constitution alone as sufficient for effective urban governance, given the general pattern documented throughout this framework in which formal institutional coverage in Mizoram has often outpaced the specialized staffing and revenue capacity needed to make that coverage fully functional.

11.3 Housing: Demand Assessment, Affordability and Flagship Schemes

Housing policy in Mizoram operates primarily through the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (Housing for All) Mission, which has been under implementation across the state's 23 Census Towns since the scheme's June 2015 launch, coordinated through District Screening Committees that assess and approve beneficiaries under the Beneficiary-Led Construction component and other PMAY-U verticals (Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Government of Mizoram, citing UD&PA Department PMAY implementation records). The transition to PMAY-Urban 2.0, the scheme's current phase, continues to be implemented through the same District Screening Committee architecture, with beneficiary approval and construction assistance disbursement processed on an ongoing basis across the state's urban centres (Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Department, Government of Mizoram, 2026).

Housing affordability pressure in Mizoram is concentrated overwhelmingly in Aizawl, where the combination of continued in-migration documented in Section 11.1, constrained buildable land given the city's steep hill topography, and rising construction costs driven by the same terrain-related cost premiums documented throughout this framework's infrastructure chapters, together produce housing cost pressure disproportionate to the state's modest per capita income levels documented in Chapter 3. This framework recommends that the state's housing strategy give explicit attention to vertical and higher-density housing typologies suited to Aizawl's constrained hill topography, alongside continued expansion of Beneficiary-Led Construction support in the state's smaller and less land-constrained urban centres, as a more sustainable long-term response to urban housing demand than continued low-density horizontal urban expansion, which in Aizawl's terrain carries both higher infrastructure servicing costs and elevated landslide risk exposure, discussed further in Chapter 14.

11.4 Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT: State-Level Implementation Review

Aizawl was selected under the Government of India's 100 Smart Cities Mission, and Aizawl Smart City Limited has since implemented a range of urban infrastructure and public realm projects, including the redevelopment of Aizawl Lungdawh into a "Smart Street," upgrades to public sporting and civic infrastructure including a tennis facility and Raj Bhavan fencing under the complementary AMRUT scheme, and, as of 2025, an ongoing New Age Multifaceted Urban Centre project at Mission Veng, Aizawl (Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Government of Mizoram, 2024; Aizawl Smart City Limited, 2025). A

November 2024 site visit by the Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs to inspect these AMRUT and Smart City project sites underscored continued central government engagement with the pace and quality of implementation in Aizawl (Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Government of Mizoram, 2024).

Academic assessment of Aizawl's Smart City implementation has noted a genuinely favourable comparative finding: Aizawl's traffic management performance under the Smart City Mission compares favourably to other Northeastern Smart Cities such as Guwahati and Shillong, both of which face more severe congestion challenges, a difference attributed in part to Aizawl residents' comparatively strong observed adherence to traffic rules alongside the city's Smart City-supported traffic infrastructure investments (International Research Journal of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies, 2025). This finding is a useful, if narrow, illustration of a broader pattern this framework has observed across several sectors: Mizoram's strong civic and social cohesion, discussed in Chapter 1's treatment of church and community institutions, appears to translate into more effective on-the-ground outcomes from formal infrastructure investment than would be predicted from the infrastructure investment alone, a dynamic worth deliberate cultivation in the state's broader urban governance strategy.

AMRUT 2.0, launched on 1 October 2021 with an explicit focus on universal urban water access, expanded sewerage and septage management coverage, and rejuvenation of water bodies and green spaces, has designated Aizawl as the state's AMRUT city with a specific sewerage and septage management and wastewater recycling and reuse mandate, directly complementing the liquid waste and sewerage infrastructure priority this framework identified in Chapter 10, Section 10.5, as one of the least developed components of the state's water and sanitation architecture (Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Department, Government of Mizoram, 2026). Beyond Aizawl, AMRUT 2.0-linked planning support has extended to other towns, including an ongoing Geographic Information System-based master plan formulation process for Lunglei town, the state's second-largest urban centre, reflecting a gradual extension of structured urban planning capacity beyond the capital (Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Department, Government of Mizoram, 2026).

11.5 Heritage Cities, Cultural Landscapes and Urban Tourism

Mizoram's urban heritage and cultural landscape assets, while less extensively documented in formal national heritage city programming than those of many mainland states, centre substantially on Aizawl's own distinctive hill-city character, its historic administrative and mission-era architecture linked to the state's Christian missionary history discussed in Chapter 1, and on smaller heritage and cultural landscape sites distributed across the state's district towns, several of which carry historical significance tied to pre-colonial Mizo chieftainship settlements and to the state's twentieth-century political and missionary history.

Urban tourism development in Mizoram, discussed further in the state's dedicated tourism chapter, Chapter 19, remains at an early stage relative to the state's genuine cultural and natural asset base, and this framework recommends that the state's urban planning process for Aizawl and for secondary towns such as Lunglei and Champhai explicitly incorporate

heritage and cultural landscape preservation and interpretation infrastructure, walking trails, interpretive signage, and adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, as a complementary, comparatively low-capital-cost component of the state's broader tourism development strategy, rather than treating heritage preservation and tourism development as separate agendas pursued by different departments.

11.6 Urban Poverty, Slum Rehabilitation and In-Situ Upgradation

Urban poverty in Mizoram, consistent with the low overall poverty headcount ratio documented in Chapter 1, remains comparatively modest relative to most Indian states, but it is not absent, and it is concentrated in specific informal and semi-formal settlement areas within Aizawl and, to a lesser extent, other urban centres, where in-migrating rural households, discussed in Section 11.1, often settle initially in areas with limited formal infrastructure access, land tenure security, and construction quality, generally in the more marginal and geotechnically less stable peripheral areas of the city given the intense competition for stable, well-located land in Aizawl's constrained hill topography.

The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), referenced in the Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Department's own programming alongside skill development initiatives such as sewing machine distribution to self-help groups, forms the primary urban poverty alleviation and livelihood support instrument operating in Mizoram's urban centres, working in coordination with the self-help group and cooperative-based livelihood promotion architecture discussed further in Chapter 12's treatment of rural development, since many urban poverty alleviation approaches in Mizoram, given the state's strong self-help group and cooperative tradition documented throughout this framework, mirror the community-based, group-lending livelihood promotion model more commonly associated with rural development programming (Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Department, Government of Mizoram, 2022). In-situ upgradation of informal settlement areas, rather than resettlement to peripheral sites, is the approach this framework recommends as most consistent with Mizoram's terrain constraints and with the strong community and neighbourhood social cohesion documented throughout this framework, since resettlement to new peripheral sites in a hill city like Aizawl often means longer, more difficult commutes to livelihood opportunities and a disruption of the community support networks that, as this framework has emphasized repeatedly, form an important part of how vulnerable households in Mizoram access informal social protection.

The chapter that follows turns from Mizoram's urban development agenda to its rural development and decentralised governance architecture, examining the Village Council system, MGNREGA implementation, rural housing, and livelihood promotion institutions that serve the roughly half of Mizoram's population that, notwithstanding the state's high and rising urbanization rate documented in this chapter, continues to live in the state's rural and semi-rural hill villages.

Chapter 12: Rural Development and Decentralised Governance

12.1 Panchayati Raj Institutions: Structure, Devolution and Capacity

Mizoram represents a genuine exception within India's rural governance landscape, since the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, which established the three-tier Panchayati Raj Institution structure now operating across most of rural India, does not apply to the state by

virtue of Article 243M(2) of the Constitution, which exempts states covered under Part X (the Sixth Schedule) and certain other hill areas from its application, a point already introduced in Chapter 1. In place of Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, and Zila Parishads, rural local governance in Mizoram operates through Village Councils, elected under the Mizoram (Village Councils) Act, 2007 (as amended), which handle land allocation, local dispute resolution, and coordination of village-level development activity, and through the Autonomous District Councils, discussed in Chapter 1, which exercise a wider range of legislative, judicial, and executive functions within the Chakma, Lai, and Mara Autonomous District Council areas.

This distinct governance architecture has an important practical consequence that recurs throughout this chapter and that this framework has flagged in earlier chapters as well: central rural development schemes designed with Panchayati Raj Institutions as their primary implementation and fund-flow vehicle, whether MGNREGA, PMAY-G, or the various components of DAY-NRLM discussed in Section 12.4, must be adapted in Mizoram to work through Village Councils, Village Employment Councils, and, for community mobilization functions, self-help group federations, rather than through Gram Panchayats. This adaptation has generally proceeded successfully in programmatic terms, as documented throughout this chapter, but it also means that devolution of functions, funds, and functionaries in Mizoram, a central theme of Panchayati Raj strengthening discourse nationally, needs to be understood and assessed against the specific powers and capacities of Village Councils and Autonomous District Councils rather than benchmarked directly against Panchayati Raj Institution devolution indices designed for mainland states.

12.2 MGNREGA: Coverage, Wage Trends and Livelihood Outcomes

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was notified for implementation in Mizoram's districts, including Siaha, effective 7 September 2015, providing up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment per financial year to rural households whose adult members volunteer for unskilled manual work, consistent with the scheme's national design (District Rural Development Office, Siaha, Government of Mizoram, 2026). Reflecting the state's distinct rural governance architecture discussed in Section 12.1, MGNREGA implementation in Mizoram substitutes the Village Employment Council for the Gram Panchayat as the pivotal village-level implementation body, responsible for work planning and local scheme administration, functioning under the same overall Central Employment Guarantee Council, State Employment Guarantee Council, District Programme Coordinator, and Block-level Programme Officer institutional structure that governs MGNREGA implementation nationally (Rural Development Department, Government of Mizoram, 2026).

MGNREGA's livelihood contribution in Mizoram carries particular importance given the primary sector employment patterns documented in Chapter 3, where a majority of the rural population continues to derive income from agriculture and allied activity even as the sector's GSVA share has been overtaken by services and industry, meaning MGNREGA wage

employment functions as an important income-smoothing mechanism during the agricultural off-season and during the fallow periods inherent to the jhum cultivation cycle discussed in Chapter 1. The scheme's convergence with asset creation activities relevant to the state's broader agricultural transition agenda, including the construction of durable community and individual assets that strengthen the livelihood resource base of rural households, has been actively pursued through structured convergence between MGNREGA and the Mizoram State Rural Livelihoods Mission, discussed further in Section 12.4 (Mizoram State Rural Livelihoods Mission, 2026).

12.3 Rural Housing: PMAY-Gramin and State Schemes

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin, implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development since FY 2016-17 with the objective of providing pucca houses with basic amenities to houseless households and those living in kutchha or severely damaged dwellings, operates across all districts and blocks of Mizoram, with a minimum constructed house size of 25 square metres, up from the earlier 20 square metre standard (District Rural Development Office, Aizawl, Government of Mizoram, 2026).

Reflecting the elevated construction cost documented throughout this framework's infrastructure chapters as a consistent feature of Mizoram's hill terrain, unit assistance for PMAY-Gramin beneficiaries in the state's hilly areas is set at Rs 1,30,000, a hill-area-differentiated rate higher than the plains-area unit assistance applied in most mainland states, reflecting central government recognition of the genuine cost disability facing rural house construction in terrain like Mizoram's (Siaha District, Government of Mizoram, 2026).

Beneficiary identification and eligibility assessment for PMAY-Gramin in Mizoram follows the scheme's national deprivation-score-based priority list methodology, administered through District Rural Development Offices in coordination with Village Councils, and the scheme's continued extension beyond its originally intended 2022 completion horizon, now into successive extended implementation phases, reflects a pattern common across most Indian states where housing deficit closure has proceeded more gradually than the scheme's original timeline anticipated, a pattern this framework attributes in Mizoram's specific case substantially to the terrain-driven construction cost and logistics challenges documented throughout this framework rather than to any particular administrative shortcoming in the state's own implementation.

12.4 Livelihood Promotion: SHGs, Cooperatives and Rural Enterprise

The Mizoram State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MzSRLM), the state's implementing agency for the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), forms the institutional core of Mizoram's rural livelihood promotion architecture, mobilizing rural households, with a particular focus on women, into self-help groups and their higher-tier federations, and providing financial inclusion support, livelihood training, and market linkage assistance across the state's rural development blocks (Mizoram State Rural Livelihoods

Mission, 2026). MzSRLM's published resource materials, including a seasonal calendar, nutrition garden recommended practices, farm livelihood Community Resource Person manuals, and livestock-specific guidance for pig and poultry farming, are notably produced in Mizo-language versions, reflecting the same locally grounded, culturally embedded programme design approach this framework has recommended more broadly in Chapters 5, 6, and 7 for effective service delivery in Mizoram's specific social and linguistic context (Mizoram State Rural Livelihoods Mission, 2026).

A particularly instructive feature of Mizoram's rural livelihood promotion model is the structured convergence MzSRLM has established with MGNREGA and other line departments for the creation of durable and productive community and individual assets benefiting DAY-NRLM-compliant self-help group members, an institutional coordination mechanism formalized through annual MGNREGA target submissions by Block Mission Directors and Block Development Officers, state-level office orders mandating convergence target achievement, and periodic state-level review meetings chaired by the Rural Development Minister (Mizoram State Rural Livelihoods Mission, 2026). This convergence model, linking wage employment guarantee, self-help group livelihood promotion, and durable asset creation into a single coordinated planning cycle, represents a genuine institutional strength that this framework recommends be further deepened and extended to explicitly incorporate the horticultural and Bana Kaih agricultural transition priorities discussed in Chapters 2 and 3, so that MGNREGA-funded asset creation, self-help group livelihood activity, and the state's flagship agricultural procurement and market linkage programme operate as a single integrated rural development pipeline rather than as parallel, separately coordinated initiatives.

Beyond self-help groups, cooperative societies and, increasingly, formalized rural enterprise registration under the Udyam framework discussed in Chapter 4, extend Mizoram's rural livelihood promotion architecture into small-scale processing, trading, and service enterprises, complementing the primarily agricultural and craft-based livelihood focus of the core MzSRLM self-help group model.

12.5 Rural Infrastructure: PMGSY, Connectivity and Market Linkages

Rural road connectivity, discussed in Chapter 8, Section 8.1, in relation to the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana's role in Mizoram's road network, bears direct and immediate consequence for the rural development priorities discussed throughout this chapter, since MGNREGA asset creation, self-help group enterprise market access, and PMAY-Gramin construction material transport all depend on the same underlying rural road network, whose construction and maintenance cost, as documented in Chapter 8, carries a substantial terrain-driven premium in Mizoram's hill topography relative to plains states.

Market linkage infrastructure specifically relevant to rural livelihoods, rural haats, collection centres for horticultural produce feeding into the Bana Kaih procurement system discussed in Chapter 2, and cold storage and primary processing facilities positioned close to production areas, represents an area this framework identifies as requiring continued dedicated

investment attention, given the direct dependence of Mizoram's horticultural growth corridor strategy, discussed in Chapter 3, Section 3.9, on farmers' ability to move perishable produce from often remote hill villages to processing or market points within a viable time and cost window.

12.6 Community-Based Development Institutions and Participatory Planning

Drawing together the institutional threads examined throughout this chapter, rural development and decentralised governance in Mizoram operates through a distinctive layered architecture: Village Councils and Autonomous District Councils providing the formal local self-government tier in place of Panchayati Raj Institutions, discussed in Section 12.1; Village Employment Councils and self-help group federations serving as the primary implementation vehicles for MGNREGA and DAY-NRLM programming respectively, discussed in Sections 12.2 and 12.4; and the church, Young Mizo Association, and other community institutions discussed throughout this framework beginning in Chapter 1, providing an additional, less formally programmatic but genuinely consequential layer of community mobilization and mutual support capacity that development planners in Mizoram can draw upon more readily than in most other Indian states.

This framework's central recommendation for the state's rural development and decentralised governance agenda over the period to 2047 is that this multi-layered institutional architecture be more deliberately and formally integrated into a single participatory rural planning framework, one that treats Village Councils, Village Employment Councils, self-help group federations, and church and civil society bodies not as separate, independently coordinated channels for different central schemes, but as complementary components of one coherent local development planning process, with the demonstrated MGNREGA-MzSRLM convergence model discussed in Section 12.4 serving as a proof of concept for the kind of cross-institutional coordination this framework believes Mizoram's rural development strategy should pursue more comprehensively across all major rural schemes. The chapter that follows turns from Mizoram's rural development architecture to its environment and natural resource governance, examining the forest, land, water, and mineral resource base on which much of the livelihood activity discussed in this chapter ultimately depends.

Chapter 13: Environment and Natural Resource Governance

13.1 Forest Cover, Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation

Mizoram's forest resource position represents one of the most genuinely positive environmental findings in this framework, and one that runs counter to the general trend across much of India's Northeastern region. Under the 18th India State of Forest Report, released in 2023 by the Forest Survey of India, Mizoram recorded a forest cover of 85.34

percent of its total geographical area, the highest percentage forest cover of any Indian state and second only to the union territory of Lakshadweep at 91.33 percent nationally (Drishti IAS, 2024; Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 2024). More striking still, Mizoram recorded the largest absolute increase in forest cover of any state or union territory in the country between the 2021 and 2023 assessment cycles, gaining 242 square kilometres, ahead of Gujarat's 180 square kilometre increase and Odisha's 152 square kilometre increase (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 2024).

This achievement is particularly notable because it runs directly against the wider regional pattern documented in the same report: the Northeastern region as a whole recorded a net forest cover decrease of 327.30 square kilometres between the 2021 and 2023 assessment cycles, a decline the Forest Survey of India attributed principally to shifting cultivation, infrastructure development, urbanization, and settlement expansion, with jhum cultivation identified as a particular driver of forest degradation and increased forest fire incidence across the region given the shortened fallow cycles discussed in Chapter 1 (LegacyIAS, 2026, citing ISFR 2023). Mizoram was explicitly identified as the exception bucking this regional declining trend (LegacyIAS, 2026).

Analysis attributes this outcome substantially to institutional and community-driven conservation practice rather than to passive geography alone. Mizoram's Village Councils, discussed in Chapter 1 and Chapter 12, have enforced protection of traditional bamboo groves and prohibited jhum cultivation in identified vulnerable areas, a set of community-level restrictions credited with a reported 30 percent reduction in deforestation since 2019 according to state forest department records (IndiaDataMap, 2026). Bamboo itself, constituting an estimated 15 percent of Mizoram's forest cover, contributes disproportionately to this positive trend given its rapid regeneration capacity and its estimated carbon sequestration rate of approximately 12 tonnes per hectare annually, reinforcing the bamboo-based economic development priorities discussed in Chapters 3 and 4 with a directly complementary environmental conservation rationale (IndiaDataMap, 2026). It should be noted that some environmental researchers have cautioned that a portion of the reported forest cover increase in Northeastern states, including areas recorded outside officially Recorded Forest Areas, may reflect the growth of agroforestry plantations rather than natural or old-growth forest regeneration, and this framework recommends that the state's forest monitoring continue to disaggregate plantation and agroforestry cover from natural forest regeneration in future assessment cycles to ensure the genuinely positive headline trend is not obscuring a more complex underlying composition shift (isignal.in, 2026, citing Forest Survey of India analysis and independent environmental researcher commentary).

Mizoram's position within the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, discussed in Chapter 1, gives this strong and improving forest cover outcome outsized global conservation significance, since forest loss or gain within this hotspot carries disproportionate biodiversity consequences relative to forest change in less species-rich regions (LegacyIAS, 2026). The state's wildlife conservation infrastructure includes protected areas such as Dampa Tiger Reserve, Murlen National Park, and Phawngpui Blue Mountain National Park, among others,

each contributing to the protection of the region's distinctive biodiversity, though continued investment in protected area management capacity, anti-poaching enforcement, and human-wildlife conflict mitigation remains necessary to convert Mizoram's favourable aggregate forest cover trend into fully realized biodiversity conservation outcomes.

13.2 Land Use Change, Soil Degradation and Land Resource Management

Notwithstanding the positive aggregate forest cover trend documented in Section 13.1, land use change and soil degradation pressures persist at the local level across Mizoram, driven primarily by the shortened jhum cultivation cycle discussed in Chapter 1, population pressure on cultivable hill land, and infrastructure construction of the kind documented throughout this framework's transport, energy, and urban development chapters, each of which necessarily involves cutting into hill slopes and disturbing soil stability in ways that, absent careful engineering and restoration practice, can contribute to the landslide risk discussed further in Chapter 14.

Land resource management in Mizoram operates within the distinctive tribal customary land tenure system discussed in Chapters 1, 4, and 7, under which Village Councils exercise substantial authority over land allocation within their jurisdiction, a system that, as documented in Section 13.1, has in recent years been actively leveraged for conservation purposes through Village Council-enforced restrictions on jhum cultivation in identified vulnerable areas. This framework recommends that the state's land resource management strategy build further on this demonstrated capacity for community-level land use regulation, extending Village Council-based land use planning and monitoring to a wider set of soil conservation and slope stability objectives, including explicit guidance on setback distances and vegetative stabilization requirements for construction activity on steep slopes, complementing the state's New Land Use Policy and Bana Kaih programme objectives discussed in Chapters 2 and 3, which already seek to shift agricultural practice away from shifting cultivation toward more permanent, soil-stabilizing cultivation systems.

13.3 Water Bodies, Wetlands and River Ecosystem Health

Mizoram's river systems, discussed in Chapter 1, comprising the Tlawng, Tut, Tuirial, and Tuivawl rivers draining north toward the Barak system and the Chhintuipui (Koladyne) river draining south through Myanmar, together with numerous smaller streams and constructed ponds that support the state's limited fisheries sector discussed in Chapter 3, represent a water resource base whose ecological health is directly linked to the land use and forest cover dynamics discussed in Sections 13.1 and 13.2, given the close hydrological connection between upstream forest cover, soil stability, and downstream water quality and flow regularity in hill catchments of this kind.

River ecosystem health in Mizoram faces pressure from several directions examined throughout this framework: inadequately treated liquid waste discharge from Aizawl and other urban centres, discussed in Chapter 10, Section 10.5, as one of the least developed components of the state's water and sanitation infrastructure; sedimentation and water quality

impacts associated with construction activity for the road, rail, and power infrastructure projects documented in Chapters 8 and 9; and the continued, if declining, land degradation pressure associated with shortened jhum cultivation cycles discussed in Section 13.2. This framework recommends that the state's river ecosystem health monitoring be explicitly integrated with the AMRUT 2.0 water body rejuvenation mandate discussed in Chapter 11, extending beyond the urban water body focus of that programme to a more comprehensive catchment-level river health monitoring and protection strategy, given the direct dependence of both drinking water quality, discussed in Chapter 10, and downstream agricultural water availability, discussed in Chapter 18, on the ecological integrity of Mizoram's river systems.

13.4 Mining and Mineral Resource Governance

As noted in Chapter 3, Mizoram does not possess the large-scale coal, iron ore, or bauxite deposits found in several neighbouring and mainland Indian states, and mining activity within the state remains limited primarily to small-scale extraction of building stone, sand, and gravel for local construction purposes, discussed in Chapter 4, rather than large-scale commercial mineral extraction. This limited mining footprint is, on balance, favourable to the forest cover and biodiversity conservation outcomes documented in Section 13.1, since large-scale mining operations elsewhere in India have frequently been associated with significant forest loss and land degradation pressures that Mizoram has largely been spared given its modest mineral resource endowment.

Geological potential for natural gas and petroleum exploration exists in parts of Mizoram given the state's continuity with hydrocarbon-bearing formations in the wider Assam-Arakan basin, discussed in Chapter 3, though commercial-scale extraction has not materialized to date. Should future exploration activity advance toward commercial development, this framework recommends that Mizoram's mineral resource governance framework be developed proactively, before any large-scale extraction activity begins, drawing on the state's demonstrated Village Council-based land use governance capacity discussed in Sections 13.1 and 13.2 to ensure any future hydrocarbon or mineral development proceeds within a framework that explicitly protects the forest cover and biodiversity assets this chapter has documented as among the state's most genuinely distinctive environmental achievements.

13.5 Pollution: Air, Water, Noise and Soil — Status and Regulatory Response

Air pollution levels in Mizoram remain comparatively favourable relative to most Indian states, reflecting the state's limited industrial base documented in Chapter 4, modest vehicle density relative to more urbanized mainland states, and extensive forest cover documented in Section 13.1, which provides a genuine air quality co-benefit alongside its carbon sequestration and biodiversity value. Seasonal air quality pressure does arise from agricultural burning associated with jhum cultivation practice, discussed in Chapter 1, and from forest fire incidence linked to the shortened jhum cycle documented in Section 13.1, both of which the Forest Survey of India has identified as contributing factors to periodic

haze and reduced air quality across the wider Northeastern region during the dry season burning period.

Water pollution risk in Mizoram, discussed in relation to river ecosystem health in Section 13.3, centres primarily on inadequately treated urban liquid waste discharge, discussed in Chapter 10, and on the more diffuse, harder-to-monitor risk of agricultural runoff and sedimentation associated with construction activity across the state's active infrastructure development programme documented in Chapters 8 and 9. Noise pollution remains a comparatively minor concern given Mizoram's modest urban scale and traffic density relative to larger Indian cities, though Aizawl's continued urban growth and traffic congestion, discussed in Chapters 8 and 11, will require continued attention to this dimension as the city develops further. Soil pollution risk in Mizoram is most closely associated with agrochemical use in the state's expanding horticultural sector, discussed in Chapters 3 and 18, an area this framework recommends be monitored proactively as horticultural intensification proceeds, given the well-documented pattern in other Indian states where agricultural intensification, if pursued without adequate integrated pest management and soil health monitoring, has led to longer-term soil quality degradation that ultimately undermines the productivity gains such intensification is intended to achieve.

The State Pollution Control Board, operating under the national regulatory framework established by the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, provides the formal regulatory architecture for pollution monitoring and control in Mizoram, though, consistent with the specialized institutional capacity constraints documented throughout this framework, the Board's monitoring and enforcement capacity across the state's eleven dispersed districts faces the same geographic and staffing challenges that recur across nearly every specialized government function examined in this framework, from health specialist deployment in Chapter 6 to special education service delivery in Chapter 7.

13.6 Coastal and Marine Resource Management (Where Applicable)

Mizoram is a fully landlocked state with no coastline, and this section of the standard framework template therefore does not apply to Mizoram in the direct sense it would for a maritime state. The closest analogue within Mizoram's own resource governance context is the state's indirect stake in the health and governance of the riverine and, prospectively, coastal transit corridor associated with the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, discussed in Chapters 4 and 8, which connects Mizoram indirectly to the Bay of Bengal via Myanmar's Sittwe port and the Kaladan river corridor within Myanmar territory. While this corridor's coastal and marine resource management falls under Myanmar's, not Mizoram's, jurisdiction, the project's eventual operationalization would give Mizoram's trade and logistics planning, discussed in Chapter 4, an indirect but genuine stake in the environmental and resource governance quality of that downstream coastal and riverine corridor, a consideration this framework flags for future inter-governmental coordination should the project advance toward full operational status.

Taken together, the findings of this chapter present a more favourable environmental resource governance picture than many readers might expect of a rapidly infrastructure-developing hill state, with Mizoram's forest cover performance standing out as a genuine national leadership example even as this chapter has identified specific and continuing pressures, from urban liquid waste discharge to construction-driven land use change to the residual risks of shortened jhum cultivation cycles, that require sustained attention rather than complacency. The chapter that follows turns from Mizoram's environmental resource base to the closely related theme of climate change and ecological security, examining the state's climate vulnerability, disaster risk profile, and the institutional mechanisms in place to manage both.

Chapter 14: Climate Change and Ecological Security

14.1 State Climate Vulnerability and Risk Profile

Mizoram's geographic and geological characteristics, discussed in Chapter 1, combine to produce one of the most acute natural hazard exposure profiles of any Indian state. According to the Mizoram State Disaster Management Authority, the state is vulnerable to all major

categories of natural hazard, drought, flood, cyclone, earthquake, and landslide, and more than 71 percent of the state's total geographical area falls within the Very High to Moderate Hazard Zone classification (State Action Plan on Climate Change and Human Health, Government of Mizoram, 2024). Rainfall trend analysis for the state shows a mean annual rainfall of 2,403 millimetres with a standard deviation of 452.32 millimetres, and, notably, a decreasing trend in annual rainfall recorded between 2010 and 2019, even as the intensity of individual extreme rainfall events has shown signs of increase, a pattern consistent with the broader climate science finding, applicable across Northeast India, that mean monsoon rainfall is projected to decline even as extreme precipitation events intensify (State Action Plan on Climate Change and Human Health, Government of Mizoram, 2024; Sarma et al., 2026, citing Dhara et al., 2025, Saha et al., 2023, Chakraborty et al., 2025, and Roxy et al., 2017).

This combination, declining average rainfall alongside intensifying extreme rainfall events, is climatically significant for Mizoram specifically because the state's landslide risk, discussed in detail in Section 14.3, is driven less by cumulative seasonal rainfall totals than by the intensity of individual rainfall pulses, meaning the projected climate trend for the region points toward an increasing, not decreasing, landslide hazard even in years where total annual rainfall may be at or below historical averages. Mizoram lies within Seismic Zone V, the highest seismic hazard classification in India's national seismic zoning map, and the state has experienced documented earthquake swarm activity, including a sequence of six earthquakes measuring between moment magnitude 4.0 and 5.1 and sixteen further earthquakes between magnitude 3.0 and 3.9 occurring within a two-month period near Champhai, with a mainshock of magnitude 5.5 preceded by a magnitude 5.1 earthquake in Aizawl the previous day, all originating at shallow depth within the intra-plate zone of the subducting Indian plate along the transverse Mat Fault (Bharali et al., 2021, as cited in Sangi et al., 2025).

14.2 State Action Plan on Climate Change: Review and Second Generation Reforms

Mizoram's climate adaptation planning architecture includes a dedicated State Action Plan on Climate Change and Human Health, prepared under the National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health framework and finalized with an October 2024 revision date, which explicitly integrates the hazard vulnerability findings summarized in Section 14.1 with the health system planning discussed in Chapter 6, recognizing that climate-driven hazards including landslides, floods, and shifting disease vector patterns carry direct implications for the state's health infrastructure and emergency response capacity (State Action Plan on Climate Change and Human Health, Government of Mizoram, 2024). This document sits alongside the state's broader State Action Plan on Climate Change, first prepared in an earlier planning cycle consistent with the national framework requiring all states to develop such plans, and now due for the kind of second-generation revision and update that most Indian states have undertaken as national and state-level climate science and vulnerability assessment methodology has advanced over the past decade.

This framework recommends that Mizoram's second-generation State Action Plan on Climate Change revision give explicit, dedicated priority to landslide risk as a climate-linked hazard category in its own right, rather than treating landslide risk as a subordinate consideration within a broader natural hazard framework, given the scale and severity of the landslide-specific evidence documented in Section 14.3, evidence that positions Mizoram as facing a qualitatively more acute landslide burden than almost any other Indian state and one that recent research explicitly links to the changing character of extreme rainfall events under climate change, discussed in Section 14.1.

14.3 Disaster Risk Profile: Hazard, Exposure and Vulnerability Mapping

The severity of Mizoram's landslide risk, introduced in Sections 14.1 and 14.2, warrants detailed examination given its centrality to the state's overall disaster risk profile. The National Remote Sensing Centre's Landslide Atlas of India documented 12,385 landslide events in Mizoram between 1998 and 2022, making Mizoram the most landslide-prone state in the entire country, a ranking that sets it apart even from other landslide-prone Himalayan and Northeastern states (Jain et al., 2023, as cited in Sarma et al., 2026). Aizawl, the state capital and home to over 400,000 residents, discussed in Chapter 1, is built on an anticlinal ridge of Tertiary interbedded sandstone and shale, a geologically fragile formation that hillslope stability analysis has found renders more than 44 percent of the city area unconditionally unstable, and more than 300 landslide-related fatalities have been recorded in Aizawl alone over the past decade (Lallianthanga and Lalbiakmawia, 2013; Sangi et al., 2025, as cited in Sarma et al., 2026).

Two recent events illustrate the acute and escalating nature of this hazard within the period covered by this framework. On 28 May 2024, Cyclone Remal brought intense rainfall to Aizawl, with an extreme single-day rainfall pulse of approximately 205 millimetres in 24 hours triggering at least eight simultaneous landslides across the city and killing at least 27, and by some accounts 34, people in a single day, an event researchers have characterized as exemplifying a comparatively rare, high-intensity failure mode distinct from the cumulative, longer-duration monsoon-driven landslides that have historically characterized the region, one in which an extreme rainfall pulse overwhelmed many slopes near-simultaneously with little to no warning interval between the onset of heavy rain and catastrophic slope failure (Sangi et al., 2025; The Hindustan Times, 2024, as cited in academic sources; Sarma et al., 2026). Just over a year later, between 24 May and early June 2025, Mizoram experienced a further severe monsoon crisis in which 598 landslides were reported across the state, killing five people, damaging 171 houses, and displacing 363 people through a combination of landslide- and flood-related evacuations, with 257 separate locations across the state experiencing road blockages; Champhai district, bordering Myanmar, recorded the highest number of incidents at 209, followed by Serchhip at 116, Khawzawl at 75, and Lunglei at 61, with Aizawl itself recording the comparatively lowest count of 21 in this particular event (Down To Earth, 2025).

These two events, occurring within thirteen months of each other, illustrate a hazard frequency and severity that this framework treats as a defining, rather than peripheral, feature of Mizoram's overall development context, one that must inform planning decisions across nearly every other chapter of this framework, from the road and rail infrastructure siting decisions discussed in Chapter 8, to the urban housing density and location decisions discussed in Chapter 11, to the agricultural and horticultural land use planning decisions discussed in Chapters 3, 12, and 18.

14.4 Disaster Risk Reduction: Institutional Mechanisms and Preparedness

Mizoram's disaster risk reduction institutional architecture is anchored by the Mizoram State Disaster Management Authority, referenced in Section 14.1, working alongside the state's Disaster Management and Rehabilitation Department, which coordinated the emergency response to the June 2025 landslide and flood crisis documented in Section 14.3 through the State Emergency Operation Centre in Aizawl, with the state's Disaster Management and Rehabilitation Minister personally visiting the centre to monitor relief efforts during the crisis (Down To Earth, 2025). Most districts and many towns across Mizoram have conducted micro-level hazard vulnerability assessments, providing a granular evidentiary basis for local-level disaster preparedness planning, consistent with the state's demonstrated strength in maintaining detailed, geographically disaggregated administrative data discussed elsewhere in this framework, for instance in Chapter 6's discussion of the state's GIS-based health facility mapping (State Action Plan on Climate Change and Human Health, Government of Mizoram, 2024).

A particularly notable feature of Mizoram's disaster response capacity, evident in accounts of the June 2025 crisis, is the role played by informal community response grounded in the Mizo cultural concept of *tlawmngaihna*, a term describing a spirit of selfless service and mutual assistance that is deeply embedded in Mizo social identity, discussed in the context of church and community institutional strength in Chapter 1. During the June 2025 crisis, residents of Ramlaitui village opened their homes to more than 100 stranded travellers when landslides blocked the road, dividing them into groups and providing free meals and shelter, with one stranded traveller explicitly attributing this assistance to *tlawmngaihna* as a defining feature of Mizo social expectation (Down To Earth, 2025). This is a striking, concrete illustration of the pattern this framework has identified repeatedly across preceding chapters, that Mizoram's strong community and civic institutional fabric functions as a genuine and substantial complement to formal state emergency response capacity, and this framework recommends that the state's formal disaster preparedness planning explicitly recognize, train, and resource this community response capacity as a core, rather than incidental, pillar of its disaster risk reduction strategy, potentially through structured community disaster response volunteer training delivered in partnership with the Young Mizo Association and church networks discussed throughout this framework.

14.5 Post-Disaster Response, Relief and Reconstruction Framework

Post-disaster relief and reconstruction in Mizoram follows the general framework established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, drawing on the State Disaster Response Fund and, for larger-scale events, the National Disaster Response Fund, supplemented by state government ex gratia payments to affected families, such as the Rs 4 lakh payment announced for families of those who lost their lives in the June 2025 landslide and flood crisis (Down To Earth, 2025). Reconstruction following major landslide events necessarily engages closely with the road infrastructure repair priorities discussed in Chapter 8, given the frequency with which landslides in Mizoram directly damage or block the state's already constrained road network, as illustrated by the 257 separate road blockage locations recorded during the June 2025 event alone.

This framework recommends that Mizoram's post-disaster reconstruction framework be explicitly designed around a build-back-better principle informed by the hillslope stability analysis and hazard vulnerability mapping discussed in Sections 14.3 and 14.4, ensuring that reconstruction of housing, roads, and other infrastructure damaged in landslide and flood events does not simply restore prior infrastructure in its original, and demonstrably hazard-exposed, location and design, but instead incorporates updated slope stability and drainage engineering standards, an approach that carries higher upfront reconstruction cost but that this framework judges to be more fiscally and humanely sound over the medium term than repeated cycles of damage and like-for-like reconstruction in geotechnically unstable locations, particularly within Aizawl given the finding that 44 percent of the city's area is classified as unconditionally unstable.

14.6 Green Economy Transition: Opportunities and Structural Challenges

Mizoram's green economy transition potential draws directly on several strengths already documented across this framework: the state's exceptional and improving forest cover performance discussed in Chapter 13, its substantial untapped solar and hydropower potential discussed in Chapter 9, and its bamboo-based carbon sequestration and livelihood potential discussed in Chapters 3, 4, and 13. Together, these assets position Mizoram favourably within India's broader green economy and climate transition agenda, offering a credible basis for the state to pursue green growth financing instruments, carbon credit and forest carbon market participation building on its bamboo and forest conservation performance, and renewable energy investment attracting both public and private capital.

At the same time, this chapter's findings on Mizoram's disaster risk profile introduce a structural challenge that any green economy transition strategy for the state must confront directly: the same hill terrain and monsoon climate that give Mizoram its renewable hydropower potential and rich forest carbon stock also expose the infrastructure needed to realize that potential, dams, transmission lines, solar installations, and access roads, to the landslide and seismic risk documented in this chapter. This framework's overarching recommendation for Mizoram's green economy transition is therefore that renewable energy and green infrastructure investment planning, discussed in Chapter 9, be integrated from the outset with the hazard vulnerability mapping and slope stability engineering standards

discussed in this chapter, rather than treated as a separate energy sector planning exercise, ensuring that the state's genuine green growth opportunity is pursued in a manner resilient to, rather than vulnerable to, the disaster risk profile that this chapter has identified as one of the defining structural features of Mizoram's development context for the period covered by this framework. The chapter that follows turns to Mizoram's administrative governance reform agenda, examining the institutional capacity that will ultimately determine how effectively the state can implement the climate resilience and disaster risk reduction priorities identified here.

Chapter 15: Administrative Governance Reform

15.1 Structure of State Administration and Inter-Departmental Coordination

Mizoram's state administration is organized through the standard Indian departmental secretariat structure, headed by the Chief Secretary and organized into functional departments

corresponding to the sectors examined throughout this framework, health and family welfare, education, rural development, urban development and poverty alleviation, power and electricity, and so on, each administered by a Secretary reporting to the relevant Cabinet Minister. What distinguishes Mizoram's administrative structure from most mainland states, as this framework has emphasized repeatedly, is the parallel and, in several domains, co-equal governance role played by the state's Sixth Schedule Autonomous District Councils, discussed in Chapter 1, and by Village Councils in place of Panchayati Raj Institutions, discussed in Chapter 12, meaning effective inter-departmental coordination in Mizoram must also encompass coordination between state secretariat departments and these distinct sub-state governance bodies, a coordination challenge with no direct analogue in most other Indian states.

Recent inter-governmental coordination activity documented in state government communications includes continued engagement between Mizoram and Assam officials on managing their shared inter-state boundary, an issue that has periodically required direct ministerial-level dialogue, including meetings between the two states' Home Ministers and Border Protection Ministers, reflecting the practical governance importance of effective inter-state coordination for a small state whose economic and physical connectivity, discussed in Chapters 3 and 8, remains substantially routed through neighbouring Assam (Aizawl Regional News Bulletin, Government of Mizoram, All India Radio, 2025).

15.2 Anti-Corruption Framework: Lokayukta, Vigilance and Enforcement

Mizoram's anti-corruption institutional framework operates under the national Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, which, under Section 14 of the Act, extends Lokpal jurisdiction to state government employees only where the concerned state government has provided its consent, meaning the specific scope and independence of anti-corruption oversight applicable to Mizoram state government functionaries depends on the state's own institutional arrangements and any state-specific Lokayukta legislation it has enacted, supplemented by the state's own Vigilance Department and Directorate of Local Fund Audit, discussed further below.

Local audit oversight has continued to identify specific institutional accountability gaps requiring attention. The Director of Local Fund Audit flagged discrepancies in the Aizawl Municipal Corporation's fund utilization for the financial years 2019-20 and 2022-23, findings that state officials have acknowledged require corrective follow-up (Aizawl Regional News Bulletin, Government of Mizoram, All India Radio, 2025). This finding is consistent with the broader public financial management gaps this framework has already documented at the state level in Chapter 2, and it underscores that the accountability and audit compliance challenges identified in that chapter are not confined to state-level finances alone but extend into Urban Local Body financial management as well, reinforcing this framework's recommendation in Chapter 11 that Urban Local Body capacity-building explicitly include stronger financial management and audit compliance systems.

15.3 Legal and Judicial Administration: Pendency, Access and Reform

Judicial administration in Mizoram operates through the Gauhati High Court's Aizawl Bench, serving as the state's principal High Court judicial presence, supported by District and Sessions Courts and subordinate courts across the state's eleven districts, alongside the customary law-based dispute resolution mechanisms exercised by Village Councils, discussed in Chapters 1 and 12, and by the judicial functions of the Autonomous District Councils within their respective jurisdictions, discussed in Chapter 1. This dual-track legal architecture, formal state judicial administration operating alongside customary Village Council and Autonomous District Council dispute resolution, is a distinguishing feature of Mizoram's legal and judicial administration that, as with the state's rural governance architecture discussed in Chapter 12, requires assessment against Mizoram's own specific institutional design rather than direct benchmarking against judicial pendency and access indicators calibrated for states without an equivalent customary law tier.

Case pendency in Mizoram's formal court system, while smaller in absolute numbers than in larger mainland states given the state's small population base documented in Chapter 1, nonetheless reflects the general national pattern of judicial capacity struggling to keep pace with caseload growth, a pattern this framework recommends the state address through continued judicial officer recruitment, expanded use of Lok Adalats and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and closer procedural integration between the formal court system and Village Council-level dispute resolution for matters, particularly minor civil and customary disputes, where Village Council resolution offers both faster and more culturally appropriate outcomes than referral to the formal court system.

15.4 Police Modernisation and Internal Security Management

Mizoram Police, operating under the state Home Department, carries responsibility for both general law and order administration and the distinctive internal security functions associated with the state's international border with Myanmar and Bangladesh, discussed in Chapter 1, including coordination with central paramilitary forces on border security and counter-narcotics enforcement given Mizoram's historical position along trafficking routes linked to the Golden Triangle region, discussed in Chapter 6's treatment of the state's HIV and substance use burden. The state's continued prohibition policy, discussed further in Section 15.5, places a distinctive and substantial additional enforcement burden on Mizoram Police relative to most other state police forces, given the ongoing need to interdict illegal liquor manufacture, transport, and sale across the state's difficult and porous hill terrain.

Recent excise enforcement data illustrates the scale of this enforcement activity: over a three-month period referenced in early 2025 state government communications, the Excise and Narcotics Department seized 195 cases and 48 boxes of illegal liquor, alongside continued narcotics enforcement activity consistent with the state's broader anti-drug policy stance discussed in Chapter 6 (Aizawl Regional News Bulletin, Government of Mizoram, All India Radio, 2025). Cross-border security coordination remains an ongoing operational priority given the state's shared border with Myanmar's Chin State, discussed in Chapters 1

and 4 in relation to the cross-border displacement and trade dynamics arising from Myanmar's post-2021 political instability, a dynamic that places sustained demand on Mizoram Police and central border security force coordination capacity beyond what a state of Mizoram's population size would typically require.

15.5 Regulatory Governance: Quality, Consistency and Independence

Mizoram's most distinctive and consequential recent regulatory governance development is the Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2025, passed unanimously by the state Legislative Assembly in March 2025 and formally notified in the Mizoram Gazette on 20 March 2025 following Governor's assent (Government of Mizoram, Excise and Narcotics Department, 2025; Regional News Bulletin, All India Radio, 2025). This amendment carries particular regulatory significance because it extends the Mizoram Liquor Total Prohibition framework to formally cover the state's three Autonomous District Councils, Mara, Lai, and Chakma, discussed in Chapter 1, which had not previously fallen within the scope of the state's core prohibition legislation, a gap the Excise and Narcotics Minister explicitly identified as the amendment's rationale, extending state-wide, rather than partial-territory, application of Mizoram's prohibition regime for the first time (Regional News Bulletin, All India Radio, 2025). The amendment also carries an economic development dimension directly connected to the agricultural transition priorities discussed in Chapters 2 and 3, with the Excise Minister explicitly linking the legislation to a benefit for the state's Agriculture and Horticulture departments, consistent with Mizoram's established regulated framework for locally produced fruit wine, which permits limited commercial wine production from the state's horticultural produce, discussed in Chapters 3 and 18, as a revenue and market-linkage mechanism for local fruit growers operating within, rather than outside, the state's prohibition framework (Regional News Bulletin, All India Radio, 2025).

This framework treats the 2025 amendment as a notable illustration of Mizoram's regulatory governance approach more broadly: rather than treating prohibition policy, discussed further in its social and health dimensions in Chapter 6, and agricultural and horticultural economic development policy, discussed in Chapters 3 and 18, as separate or competing regulatory domains, the state has moved toward a more integrated regulatory design that closes territorial coverage gaps in its core social policy commitment to prohibition while simultaneously creating a narrow, regulated commercial channel that supports horticultural livelihoods, an approach consistent with the multi-departmental, cross-sectoral coordination pattern this framework has identified as a genuine strength across several of Mizoram's public policy domains, including the health and rural development coordination credited for the state's strong Infant Mortality Rate performance discussed in Chapter 6.

15.6 Reduction of Red-tapism: Simplification and Way Forward

Regulatory simplification and reduction of administrative red tape in Mizoram is closely tied to the ease of doing business and investment climate reforms discussed in Chapter 4, where the state's consolidated policy suite covering sustainable investment, logistics, and ease of

doing business explicitly foregrounds streamlined regulatory processes as an organizing principle. This framework recommends that the state's continued red-tapism reduction agenda extend beyond the investment and industrial licensing domain discussed in Chapter 4 to encompass simplification of citizen-facing administrative processes more broadly, including land record and Village Council land allocation documentation, discussed in Chapters 1, 4, and 13, welfare scheme beneficiary identification and certification processes discussed across Chapter 7, and the PMAY-Gramin and PMAY-Urban beneficiary screening processes discussed in Chapters 11 and 12, each of which currently requires multi-tier committee review that, while providing important due diligence and fairness safeguards, could in many cases be streamlined through the same kind of digital governance infrastructure discussed further in Chapter 16.

15.7 Civil Service Strength: Vacancy Rates and Training Institutions

The Mizoram Public Service Commission serves as the state's apex constitutional recruitment body, conducting recruitment for the Mizoram Civil Service, Assistant Professor and other higher education faculty positions discussed in Chapter 5, Junior Engineer and technical positions relevant to the infrastructure agencies discussed throughout Chapters 8, 9, and 10, and a wide range of Group B and Group C technical and non-technical posts across the state administration, with active recruitment notifications continuing through 2026 for positions including Mizoram Civil Service officers, Assistant Professors, Junior Accounts Officers, and Upper Divisional Clerks, among others (Mizoram Public Service Commission, 2026). The continued, active pace of Commission recruitment activity documented into mid-2026 suggests an administration actively working to fill vacancies across departments, though this framework notes that a systematic, published vacancy rate analysis specific to Mizoram, comparable to the civil service vacancy tracking increasingly published by larger states, was not available in the sources consulted for this framework, and this framework recommends that the state's General Administration Department publish such a consolidated, department-wise vacancy rate analysis as a matter of governance transparency, given how directly civil service staffing adequacy bears on the specialized service delivery capacity constraints this framework has documented repeatedly across health, education, disaster management, and other sectoral chapters.

Training institution capacity for Mizoram's civil service, centred on the state's Administrative Training Institute and complemented by national training institutions including the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration and sector-specific national training centres, faces the same small-state specialized capacity constraint documented throughout this framework, meaning continued investment in both in-state training infrastructure and structured deputation and exposure opportunities at national training institutions remains important for building the specialized administrative capacity, in public financial management, disaster risk reduction, digital governance, and sector-specific technical domains, that this framework's preceding chapters have identified as necessary for effective implementation of Mizoram's development agenda through 2047. The chapter that follows turns to Mizoram's technology-enabled service delivery agenda, examining the digital

infrastructure and e-governance architecture that increasingly underpins the administrative reform priorities discussed throughout this chapter.

Chapter 16: Technology-Enabled Service Delivery

16.1 Digital Infrastructure: Broadband, Optical Fibre and Connectivity Coverage

Mizoram's digital infrastructure has advanced considerably over the period covered by this framework, though it continues to face the same terrain-driven last-mile connectivity

challenge documented throughout this framework's infrastructure chapters. A Telecom Advisory Committee review in mid-2026 recorded that 111 new 4G sites had been commissioned in the state under Phase IX.2 of the Universal Service Obligation Fund's mobile coverage expansion programme, with a further 30 sites established under a dedicated 4G Saturation Project explicitly targeting remote and previously uncovered villages, directly addressing the dispersed hill settlement connectivity gap this framework has identified as a recurring constraint across education (Chapter 5), health (Chapter 6), and citizen service delivery more broadly (Northeast Today, 2026).

Optical Fibre Cable connectivity has recently been extended to the district headquarters of Saitual, Khawzawl, and Champhai, three of Mizoram's more recently constituted districts discussed in Chapter 1, while bandwidth capacity at Serchhip, Lunglei, Lawngtlai, and Siaha has been enhanced to meet growing telecom and broadband demand (Northeast Today, 2026). This district headquarters-focused rollout pattern is consistent with the general infrastructure sequencing logic this framework has observed across multiple sectors, prioritizing district administrative centres first before extending fully to the more remote block and village level, and it underscores the continued importance of the Amended BharatNet Programme, the Government of India's current rural digital connectivity initiative, in closing the remaining gap between district headquarters connectivity and true last-mile village-level access across Mizoram's eleven districts (Northeast Today, 2026).

Mizoram is one of sixteen states included in the national BharatNet public-private partnership rollout approved by the Union Cabinet in June 2021, a rollout that has achieved substantial national progress, with more than 2.15 lakh Gram Panchayats, approximately 97 percent of the national total, connected under the programme as of January 2026, supported by nearly 700,000 kilometres of optical fibre nationally (OpenGov Asia, 2026; BharatNet, 2025). Given Mizoram's Village Council-based rural governance architecture discussed in Chapter 12, in place of the Gram Panchayat structure that BharatNet's national rollout metrics are typically framed around, this framework recommends that the state's own digital infrastructure reporting explicitly track BharatNet and Amended BharatNet Programme connectivity progress against Village Council and village-level units rather than relying solely on national Gram Panchayat-framed progress metrics, to ensure the state's own digital infrastructure planning reflects its actual local governance geography.

16.2 e-Governance Architecture and Digital Public Infrastructure

Mizoram's e-governance architecture draws on the national Digital India programme's core digital public infrastructure components, including State Wide Area Network connectivity linking government offices, integration with National Data Centres and the MeghRaj government cloud platform, and participation in the UMANG unified mobile governance

platform, which by 2024 had facilitated over 1.2 billion transactions nationally across more than 2,000 integrated services from central and state government agencies (IMPRI, 2026). The state's own digital public infrastructure efforts include a Geographic Information System-based health facilities portal, discussed in Chapter 6, and GIS-based master planning for urban centres such as Lunglei, discussed in Chapter 11, both illustrating a consistent pattern this framework has observed of Mizoram's administration adopting geospatial and digital tools particularly well suited to managing service delivery across the state's dispersed and difficult hill terrain.

A notable example of targeted, sector-specific digital public infrastructure deployment in Mizoram is the Digital India Corporation's livestock and fish farmer support initiative, implemented specifically in Mizoram and neighbouring Tripura, which had reached 40,713 farmers as of August 2024, directly supporting the animal husbandry and fisheries livelihood activities discussed in Chapter 3 through targeted digital service delivery rather than a generic, one-size-fits-all e-governance rollout (IBEF, 2025). This framework recommends that this sector-targeted digital public infrastructure model, rather than exclusively generic administrative e-governance platforms, be extended further into the horticultural and bamboo value chains discussed in Chapters 3 and 4, given the direct relevance such targeted digital tools could have for market linkage, price information access, and procurement coordination under the Bana Kaih scheme discussed in Chapter 2.

16.3 Citizen Service Delivery: CSCs, Service Portals and Mobile Governance

Common Service Centres provide an important citizen-facing digital service delivery channel in Mizoram, part of a national network that had grown to more than 650,000 centres by early 2026, complemented nationally by over 160,000 post offices offering digital service access, together forming the physical access point infrastructure through which citizens in areas with limited personal device or connectivity access can still reach digital government services (OpenGov Asia, 2026). Given the connectivity gaps documented in Section 16.1, particularly in Mizoram's more remote villages beyond the district headquarters where recent infrastructure investment has been concentrated, Common Service Centres and post office digital access points serve a particularly important bridging function in Mizoram relative to states with more uniformly available household-level broadband access.

Mobile governance through the UMANG platform and state-specific mobile applications, where developed, offers a further citizen service delivery channel, though this framework notes that the effectiveness of mobile governance channels in Mizoram remains directly dependent on the underlying 4G and broadband connectivity expansion discussed in Section 16.1, meaning citizen service delivery digitization and physical connectivity infrastructure expansion must be planned as a single integrated agenda rather than as separable digital governance and telecom infrastructure programmes.

16.4 Data Governance, Open Data Policy and Privacy Framework

Data governance in Mizoram operates within the national legal framework established by the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, with implementation and enforcement architecture continuing to be reinforced through 2025 and into 2026 at the national level (IMPRI, 2026). Mizoram's own open data policy and practice, while less extensively documented in the sources available for this framework than the state's connectivity infrastructure programmes, would benefit, this framework recommends, from a dedicated state open data portal consolidating the various dataset types referenced throughout this framework, health facility mapping data discussed in Chapter 6, UDISE+ education data discussed in Chapter 5, Poshan Tracker nutrition data discussed in Chapter 6, and disaster and hazard vulnerability mapping data discussed in Chapter 14, into a single, publicly accessible, and interoperable state data infrastructure, consistent with the interoperability and open Application Programming Interface standards increasingly promoted at the national level (IMPRI, 2026).

16.5 Cybersecurity: State-Level Institutional Mechanisms

Cybersecurity institutional capacity at the state level in Mizoram, as in most smaller Indian states, operates substantially through coordination with national cybersecurity infrastructure, including the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team and the broader national cybersecurity architecture being reinforced under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act framework discussed in Section 16.4, rather than through an extensive independent state-level cybersecurity institutional apparatus. Given the state's expanding digital public infrastructure footprint documented throughout this chapter, spanning health, education, financial inclusion, and welfare scheme delivery data, this framework recommends that Mizoram's state administration prioritize dedicated cybersecurity capacity building, both technical infrastructure and trained personnel, as an integral component of its continued digital governance expansion, rather than treating cybersecurity as a residual concern subordinate to the connectivity and service delivery expansion priorities that have understandably dominated the state's digital agenda to date.

16.6 Emerging Technologies: AI, Geospatial Systems and Smart Governance

Mizoram's most concretely demonstrated emerging technology application to date lies in geospatial systems, evident in the health facility mapping discussed in Chapter 6 and the urban master planning applications discussed in Chapter 11, both illustrating a state administration already comfortable deploying GIS-based tools for practical governance purposes suited to its difficult terrain. Artificial intelligence adoption within Mizoram's state governance remains at an earlier stage, consistent with the broader, still-developing national AI governance and adoption trajectory referenced in national Digital India progress reporting, which identifies AI, blockchain, and 5G as driving forces for the next phase of India's digital governance transformation (IMPRI, 2026; IBEF, 2025).

Given the specialized workforce and service delivery capacity constraints this framework has documented repeatedly, in health specialist deployment (Chapter 6), teacher deployment

(Chapter 5), and disaster risk monitoring (Chapter 14), this framework recommends that Mizoram's emerging technology adoption strategy prioritize AI and geospatial applications specifically calibrated to closing these documented specialized-capacity gaps, for instance AI-assisted triage and tele-consultation support extending the reach of the state's concentrated specialist health workforce discussed in Chapter 6, or AI-enhanced satellite and remote sensing analysis extending the landslide and disaster risk monitoring capacity discussed in Chapter 14, rather than pursuing a generic, undifferentiated AI adoption agenda disconnected from the state's own most pressing and well-documented capacity constraints. The chapter that follows turns to Mizoram's innovation, research, and knowledge economy agenda, examining the state's startup ecosystem, research and development linkages, and skill development architecture that will determine how effectively the state can build and sustain the kind of technology-enabled governance and economic capacity discussed throughout this chapter.

Chapter 17: Innovation, Research and Knowledge Economy

17.1 State Innovation Ecosystem: Startups and Accelerators

Mizoram's institutional startup ecosystem has developed along a longer and more deliberate trajectory than its current momentum might suggest, tracing back to the establishment of the Mizoram Entrepreneurship Development and Marketing Corporation (MEDMOC) on 25 October 2016, created specifically to oversee the state's Entrepreneurship Development Scheme and its 2019 Startup Policy, with the explicit objective of fostering entrepreneurship, self-reliance, and reducing the historical over-dependence on public sector employment that this framework has documented repeatedly, most directly in Chapter 3's discussion of graduate underemployment (Startup Mizoram, 2026). Complementing MEDMOC, the state's Entrepreneurship Development Centre, launched on 18 January 2017 under the North East Development Programme, has run a sequence of youth-facing entrepreneurship initiatives, including Kailawn, the state's first business plan competition and entrepreneurship summit launched in July 2017, Rahbi, meaning "stepping stone" in Mizo, a Micro Startup Capital Competition launched in December 2017 to provide seed capital and promote self-employment, and the Mizoram Innovative Challenge hackathon convened in September 2019 to encourage creative, youth-driven solutions to public challenges (Startup Mizoram, 2026).

This ecosystem reached a significant new milestone on 28 January 2026, when the Mizoram Startup Mission, operating under the Planning and Programme Implementation Department, in collaboration with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, hosted the National Startup Day Mizoram Edition at Aijal Club, during which Chief Minister Lalduhoma formally launched both the Mizoram Bana Kaih Venture Capital Fund and the Startup Readiness Level framework for Mizoram, with the Ministers for Higher and Technical Education, Commerce and Industries, and Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship all in attendance (Northeast Today, 2026). The Chief Minister's own remarks at the launch directly named the structural problem this framework has documented throughout its economic chapters: that Mizoram has long possessed individuals with strong skills and innovative ideas, but that a persistent lack of adequate support and guidance has meant many such ventures failed to scale or never translated into reality (Northeast Today, 2026).

The naming of the new venture capital fund after the state's flagship Bana Kaih agricultural procurement and farmer support scheme, discussed in Chapters 2 and 3, is a deliberate and telling policy choice, explicitly extending the state's hand-holding development philosophy from agriculture into the startup and entrepreneurship domain, and reinforcing this framework's broader observation that Mizoram's most effective policy interventions tend to be those that integrate across sectors rather than treating each domain as a separate programmatic silo. The Startup Readiness Level framework, presented at the launch by Lalremtluangi of the Mizoram University Incubation Centre, is designed to give early-stage and small ventures official recognition, making them more visible to investors, banks, and larger firms, while giving policymakers more accurate, standardized data with which to design future support schemes (Northeast Today, 2026). The event also recognized the state's existing entrepreneurial talent through the Mizoram Outstanding Entrepreneurs and Startups

Award 2026, with the Ecosystem Enabler Award conferred on Dr. C. Vanlalramsanga (Northeast Today, 2026).

17.2 Research and Development: Academic-Industry Linkages

Research and development capacity in Mizoram remains concentrated substantially within Mizoram University, discussed in Chapter 5, and its affiliated colleges, with the Mizoram University Incubation Centre, referenced in Section 17.1's discussion of the Startup Readiness Level launch, serving as the most concrete current example of formal academic-industry and academic-entrepreneurship linkage infrastructure operating within the state. Given the modest scale of Mizoram's private industrial base documented in Chapter 4, academic-industry R&D linkages in the state necessarily look different from the university-industry research park models found in more industrially developed states, and this framework recommends that Mizoram's R&D strategy be explicitly built around the state's genuine comparative research strengths, horticultural and agricultural science relevant to the Bana Kaih agenda discussed in Chapters 2 and 3, bamboo material science and value-addition research relevant to the industrial priorities discussed in Chapter 4, and public health and epidemiological research relevant to the distinctive disease burden and maternal-child health patterns documented in Chapter 6, rather than attempting to replicate a generic, undifferentiated university R&D model disconnected from the state's actual economic and social research needs.

17.3 Intellectual Property: Awareness, Registration and Commercialisation

Intellectual property awareness and registration activity in Mizoram remains at an early stage of development, consistent with the broader innovation ecosystem maturity discussed in Section 17.1, though the state's growing institutional startup support infrastructure, MEDMOC, the Entrepreneurship Development Centre, the Mizoram Startup Mission, and the Mizoram University Incubation Centre, together provide a natural institutional home through which intellectual property awareness and support services, patent and trademark registration assistance, and support for early-stage commercialization of research and traditional knowledge could be more systematically extended to Mizoram's entrepreneurs and researchers.

This framework identifies traditional knowledge protection as a particularly important and currently underdeveloped intellectual property priority specific to Mizoram's context, given the state's rich traditions in bamboo craft, handloom textile design, and horticultural and medicinal plant knowledge discussed throughout Chapters 3, 4, and 19, areas where Geographical Indication registration, already used successfully by several Northeastern states for distinctive local agricultural and craft products, represents a concrete and achievable near-term intellectual property commercialization opportunity for Mizoram's own signature products, including its distinctive Mizo chilli, ginger, and turmeric varieties discussed in Chapter 3.

17.4 Knowledge Institutions as Engines of Development

Mizoram University, discussed in Chapter 5 as the state's central university and principal higher education anchor, functions as the natural lead knowledge institution around which Mizoram's innovation and research ecosystem, discussed throughout this chapter, is most likely to develop and mature over the coming decade. The University's Incubation Centre role in the Startup Readiness Level launch discussed in Section 17.1 demonstrates this institutional centrality is already being actively leveraged by the state government rather than remaining a purely aspirational connection between higher education and economic development policy.

This framework recommends that the state's knowledge institution strategy for the period to 2047 explicitly position Mizoram University, alongside its affiliated colleges and the state's growing network of technical and vocational training institutions discussed in Chapter 5, as the coordinating hub for the sector-specific research priorities identified in Section 17.2, horticultural science, bamboo value-addition, and public health research, rather than allowing research capacity to remain fragmented across multiple, loosely coordinated institutions and departments, given the specialized-capacity constraint this framework has identified as a recurring challenge across nearly every sector examined in this document.

17.5 Building a Youth Innovation and Research Ecosystem

Mizoram's demographic profile, discussed in Chapter 1, combined with the strong education outcomes discussed in Chapter 5, positions the state's youth population as a genuine asset for building a more robust innovation and research ecosystem, provided the graduate underemployment and outmigration pressures documented in Chapter 3 can be at least partially redirected toward in-state entrepreneurship and innovation activity. The sequence of youth-facing entrepreneurship initiatives documented in Section 17.1, from the 2017 Kailawn business plan competition through the 2019 Innovative Challenge hackathon to the 2026 Startup Readiness Level and Bana Kaih Venture Capital Fund launch, demonstrates a decade-long, cumulative institutional effort to build exactly this kind of youth innovation pipeline, and this framework recommends that the state continue and deepen this trajectory rather than treating each new initiative as a standalone programme disconnected from what has come before.

National-level skilling initiatives also carry direct relevance here: the Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, addressing the Rising Northeast Investors Summit 2025, specifically cited Mizoram's high literacy achievement and the entrepreneurial spirit of its youth as exemplifying the region's broader resilience and community strength, while announcing that approximately one lakh students nationally would receive free artificial intelligence training and assessment under an upcoming Skilling for Readiness AI programme, with modules being developed for students between classes 6 and 12 (NewsOnAir, 2025). This framework recommends that Mizoram's Education Department, discussed in Chapter 5, and its Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department, discussed further in Section 17.6, coordinate closely to ensure

Mizoram's schools and youth entrepreneurship programming are positioned to draw fully on this and similar national digital and AI skilling initiatives as they roll out.

17.6 Skill Development, Employability and Workforce Alignment

Skill development policy in Mizoram is coordinated through the state's Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department, whose portfolio, evident in its role at the January 2026 Startup Mission launch discussed in Section 17.1, deliberately spans both traditional labour and employment administration and the newer entrepreneurship and startup support agenda, an institutional design this framework considers well suited to Mizoram's specific labour market challenge documented in Chapter 3, namely a well-educated workforce for whom formal wage employment alone, whether government or private sector, cannot realistically absorb the full flow of new labour market entrants.

Building on this framework's Chapter 5 recommendation that Mizoram's technical and vocational education and training strategy be explicitly aligned with the state's three identified growth corridors, horticulture and agro-processing, border trade and logistics, and services and human capital export, this chapter's findings reinforce that recommendation from the innovation and entrepreneurship side of the same coin: the startup and innovation ecosystem infrastructure documented in this chapter, MEDMOC, the Entrepreneurship Development Centre, the Mizoram Startup Mission, and the Bana Kaih Venture Capital Fund, should similarly prioritize ventures aligned with these same three growth corridors, so that skill development, vocational training, and entrepreneurship support together form a single coherent workforce and innovation alignment strategy rather than three separately administered programmes pursuing potentially divergent sectoral priorities. The chapter that follows turns to Mizoram's agriculture, allied sectors, and food security agenda in greater depth, examining the specific cropping, irrigation, marketing, and value chain dynamics that underpin the horticultural growth corridor this and preceding chapters have identified as central to the state's economic diversification strategy.

Chapter 18: Agriculture, Allied Sectors and Food Security

18.1 Cropping Pattern, Agricultural Productivity and Input Use

Mizoram's cropping pattern reflects the transitional agrarian economy discussed throughout this framework, combining continued jhum-based rice cultivation, historically Mizoram's dominant staple crop and land use system, with an expanding portfolio of cash crops increasingly cultivated on permanent or semi-permanent terraced land. Beyond rice, sugarcane remains an important lowland cash crop, contributing to the state's sugar and jaggery production and providing income and employment across several districts, while oilseeds, including mustard and sesame, have gained increasing cultivation traction as the state seeks to reduce dependence on imported edible oil, a priority directly connected to the National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm programme discussed in Section 18.7 (Major Agricultural Crops in Mizoram, PSC Notes compilation, 2024).

Agricultural productivity in Mizoram remains constrained by the same structural factors identified throughout this framework: limited arable flat land given the state's overwhelmingly hilly terrain discussed in Chapter 1, continued dependence on rainfall given the limited irrigation infrastructure discussed in Section 18.2, and input use patterns shaped by the practical difficulty of transporting seeds, fertilizer, and other agricultural inputs to remote hill villages over the constrained road network discussed in Chapter 8. The state government's own agricultural policy discourse, as reflected in recent gubernatorial addresses to the state Legislative Assembly, has explicitly framed sustainable crop productivity enhancement as the government's prime agricultural focus, a framing this framework endorses given the productivity gap documented throughout this chapter between Mizoram's cultivated area and its considerably larger horticultural and agricultural land potential (Governor's Address, Government of Mizoram, as reported by TaxTMI, 2026).

18.2 Irrigation and Water Use Efficiency in Agriculture

As discussed in Chapter 10, Section 10.2, irrigation infrastructure in Mizoram remains dominated by small-scale minor irrigation schemes, check dams, diversion weirs, and lift irrigation systems suited to the state's fragmented terraced hill terrain, rather than the large canal command area systems found in plains agriculture. The state government has explicitly signalled continued minor irrigation project expansion as part of its broader agricultural development push, alongside the crop-specific support measures discussed in Section 18.3, recognizing that irrigation reliability is a necessary complement to, rather than a substitute for, the market-linkage and price support interventions the state has prioritized under Bana Kaih (Governor's Address, Government of Mizoram, as reported by TaxTMI, 2026).

Water use efficiency improvement in Mizoram's agriculture is closely tied to the state's continued transition away from purely rain-fed jhum cultivation toward more water-efficient terrace and Wet Rice Cultivation systems, discussed in Chapter 1, a transition this framework has identified throughout as both an agricultural productivity and an environmental conservation priority, given the land degradation and forest cover pressures associated with shortened jhum cycles documented in Chapter 13.

18.3 Agricultural Marketing, Price Realisation and Farmer Income

Agricultural marketing and price realization represent an area of genuinely significant recent state policy innovation, anchored by the Bana Kaih scheme discussed in Chapters 2 and 3, under which the state government purchases four key crops, ginger, broom grass, turmeric, and Mizo bird's-eye chilli, directly from farmers at a state-introduced Minimum Support Price, with mass collection operations for fresh ginger and broomstick purchases scheduled on a defined seasonal calendar (Governor's Address, Government of Mizoram, as reported by TaxTMI, 2026). This procurement model has since been extended: on 2 June 2026, Chief Minister Lalduhoma launched a further price support scheme covering arhar (pigeon pea), sesame, and sunflower, broadening the range of crops benefiting from assured government procurement beyond the original Bana Kaih four-crop list (Press Trust of India, as reported by ThePrint, 2026).

The same June 2026 event marked a particularly significant marketing and branding development for the state's most important cash crop: Chief Minister Lalduhoma formally launched the Mizo Ginger Unique Selling Proposition mission project, recognizing ginger as Mizoram's designated Unique Selling Proposition under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, and explicitly building on the crop's existing Geographical Indication status, referenced in this framework's Chapter 17 discussion of intellectual property priorities, to position Mizoram ginger more assertively in national and global markets on the strength of its superior quality and pharmaceutical-grade standards, notwithstanding its smaller physical size relative to commercially grown varieties elsewhere (Press Trust of India, as reported by ThePrint, 2026). The project, launched with Rs 30.13 crore in financial support from the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, is expected to benefit approximately 20,000 ginger-growing farmers and generate around 100 new jobs, and includes the establishment of four modern ginger processing units in Champhai district, Mizoram's largest ginger-producing region bordering Myanmar, alongside plans to develop higher-value products such as ginger oil and other processed ginger-based commodities, supported by a training and export-readiness partnership with National Cooperative Exports Limited (Press Trust of India, as reported by ThePrint, 2026).

Beyond the crop-specific initiatives discussed above, the state's climate-resilient farming and income enhancement agenda has been further extended through the FOCUS project, referenced in Chapter 7's discussion of gender strategy in agriculture, which aims to boost agricultural income for 55,000 households through climate-resilient farming practices implemented across six of the state's eleven districts (Governor's Address, Government of Mizoram, as reported by TaxTMI, 2026). Taken together, these initiatives represent a genuinely coordinated and rapidly evolving agricultural marketing and farmer income strategy, one that this framework's Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 discussions have already identified as central to Mizoram's broader economic diversification agenda, and Section 18.3's findings here confirm that this strategy continued to deepen and expand meaningfully through the first half of 2026.

18.4 Food Processing Industry and Value Chain Development

Food processing capacity development in Mizoram, discussed in Chapter 4 in relation to the state's broader industrial base, is advancing most concretely in relation to the ginger value chain discussed in Section 18.3, with the four new modern ginger processing units under construction in Champhai district representing the most substantial recent food processing infrastructure investment documented for the state. This unit-level investment directly addresses a structural gap this framework has identified throughout its economic chapters: Mizoram's horticultural comparative advantage, discussed in Chapters 3 and 4, has historically been only partially captured in value-added form, with a considerable share of production sold as raw or minimally processed produce rather than as higher-value processed goods such as ginger oil, dried spice powder, or other shelf-stable processed products.

This framework recommends that the ginger processing model now being implemented in Champhai district be treated as a template for parallel value chain development around the state's other Bana Kaih and price-support crops, turmeric, broom grass, Mizo bird's-eye chilli, arhar, sesame, and sunflower, discussed in Section 18.3, extending the same combination of assured government procurement, dedicated processing infrastructure, and export-readiness training partnership to each of these crops in turn as budgetary and central scheme financing capacity, discussed in Chapter 2, permits.

18.5 Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Poultry: Economic Contribution

Animal husbandry in Mizoram, discussed in Chapter 3, continues to centre on pig and poultry rearing, both of which carry particular cultural and dietary significance in Mizo society and provide an important supplementary income source for rural households across the state, complementing the crop-based livelihoods discussed throughout this chapter. Dairy production in Mizoram remains modest in scale relative to the state's overall agricultural economy, constrained by the same terrain and land availability factors that shape the state's broader agricultural profile, though targeted state support for dairy and livestock development continues through central schemes coordinated by the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, working alongside the Mizoram State Rural Livelihoods Mission's livestock-focused Community Resource Person training materials discussed in Chapter 12.

18.6 Fisheries: Inland, Marine and Aquaculture

As a landlocked state, Mizoram's fisheries sector, discussed in Chapter 3, is confined entirely to inland aquaculture, practised primarily through constructed ponds rather than any significant natural lake resource, given the state's numerous but generally fast-flowing hill streams that are less suited to conventional pond-based fish farming than to their primary role as drinking water and irrigation sources discussed in Chapter 10. Aquaculture development in Mizoram operates through state Fisheries Department schemes supporting pond construction, fingerling supply, and, increasingly, integrated farming systems that combine fish farming with complementary agricultural or livestock activity on the same landholding, an approach

well suited to the small, terraced landholding pattern that characterizes much of Mizoram's cultivated land.

18.7 Horticulture, Floriculture and Medicinal Plants

Horticulture represents, as this framework has emphasized throughout its economic chapters, Mizoram's clearest agricultural comparative advantage, and recent data underscore both the scale of current production and, more strikingly, the scale of the sector's remaining untapped potential. Mizoram possesses an estimated 6.30 lakh hectares of land suitable for horticultural crop cultivation out of a total estimated land area of approximately 21 lakh hectares, yet actual horticultural land utilization stands at only around 4,127.6 hectares, representing just 6.55 percent of the estimated potential area, a finding that indicates enormous scope for expanding horticultural cultivation well beyond its current footprint (NEIST, compiling state horticulture data). Key horticultural crops cultivated across the state include mandarin orange, banana, passion fruit, grapes, hatkora, pineapple, and papaya, alongside the spice crops, ginger, turmeric, black pepper, and bird's-eye chilli, discussed throughout this chapter, which together were estimated to occupy approximately 22,470 hectares with a combined major spice production of approximately 59,620 metric tonnes in recent reporting years (NEIST, compiling state horticulture data).

Floriculture has emerged as a genuinely promising, if still smaller-scale, horticultural sub-sector, with anthurium, bird of paradise, orchids, chrysanthemums, and roses cultivated both for local demand and with recognized export potential, given Mizoram's favourable climatic conditions for several of these ornamental species (Major Crops Grown in Mizoram, PSC Notes, 2024). Oil palm cultivation, discussed in Chapter 4, has progressed substantially under the National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm programme, with 1,734 hectares covered across five districts against a targeted 2,500 hectares for the 2024-25 fiscal year, and palm oil growers in the state selling 5,509 metric tonnes of palm oil and 703 metric tonnes of crude palm oil to partner processing companies during the same period, with quality seed sprouts expected to begin production from 2025-26 onward at a dedicated oil palm seed garden established at West Serzawl in Mamit district (Governor's Address, Government of Mizoram, as reported by TaxTMI, 2026).

Medicinal and aromatic plant cultivation, while less extensively quantified in the sources available for this framework, represents a further horticultural sub-sector with recognized development potential given Mizoram's rich Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot ecology discussed in Chapters 1 and 13, and this framework recommends that future state horticulture policy give more systematic, dedicated attention to this sub-sector alongside the better-established spice, fruit, and floriculture value chains discussed above.

18.8 Agricultural Credit, Insurance and Risk Management

Agricultural credit access in Mizoram operates through the standard national architecture of cooperative and commercial bank agricultural lending, Kisan Credit Card provision, and the increasingly important complementary financing channel represented by the Mizoram Bana

Kaih Venture Capital Fund discussed in Chapter 17, which, while framed primarily as a startup and entrepreneurship instrument, carries direct relevance to agricultural value chain financing given its explicit naming after and conceptual linkage to the Bana Kaih agricultural procurement scheme discussed throughout this chapter.

Agricultural risk management in Mizoram must contend with the landslide, flood, and extreme rainfall risks documented extensively in Chapter 14, which pose a direct and material threat to standing crops, terraced field infrastructure, and stored produce awaiting collection under the Bana Kaih procurement calendar discussed in Section 18.3. This framework recommends that the state's agricultural insurance strategy, including participation in the national Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana crop insurance scheme, be explicitly calibrated to reflect this landslide and extreme rainfall risk profile, rather than relying solely on generic national crop insurance risk models designed primarily around drought and flood risk in plains agriculture, given the qualitatively distinct hazard profile Chapter 14 has documented as one of the defining features of Mizoram's development context. The chapter that follows turns to Mizoram's tourism, culture, and creative economy, a sector whose development this framework has referenced throughout as complementary to, and in several respects dependent on, the agricultural and horticultural transformation examined in this chapter.

Chapter 19: Tourism, Culture and Creative Economy

19.1 Tourism Asset Inventory: Natural, Heritage, Religious and Adventure

Mizoram's tourism asset base draws directly on the natural, cultural, and geographic characteristics documented throughout this framework, offering a genuinely distinctive combination of hill scenery, biodiversity, cultural festival tourism, and adventure recreation rarely found together within a single, relatively compact Indian state. Natural tourism assets include Reiek Peak, a popular trekking destination, Tamdil Lake, offering boating and leisure recreation, and Phawngpui, the Blue Mountain discussed in Chapter 1 as the state's highest peak and one of its designated national parks, alongside the broader biodiversity assets of the Indo-Burma hotspot discussed in Chapter 13, including Dampa Tiger Reserve and Murlen National Park (Wild Hill Adventure, 2026).

Cultural and festival tourism centres on Chapchar Kut, Mizoram's most prominent and colourful festival, a spring harvest celebration featuring traditional folk dances including Cheraw, the distinctive bamboo dance, and Darbu, performed by groups representing different Mizo sub-tribes, drawing thousands of participants annually to venues such as Aizawl's Assam Rifles Ground, with the 2025 festival on 7 March 2025 drawing widespread participation (Grokopedia, 2026; T Trikon, 2020). The Anthurium Festival, celebrating Mizoram's flourishing floriculture sector discussed in Chapter 18, and celebrated during the September to October flowering season, represents a second major annual cultural and horticultural tourism draw, alongside winter Christmas celebrations that reflect the state's overwhelmingly Christian cultural identity discussed in Chapter 1 (Wild Hill Adventure, 2026). Thenzawl, home to Mizoram's handloom weaving tradition and a golf course that has hosted dedicated tourism events such as the Thenzawl Calling Festival, represents an important secondary cultural and recreational tourism hub beyond Aizawl, discussed further in Section 19.5 (Tourism Department, Government of Mizoram, 2026; T Trikon, 2020).

19.2 Tourism Infrastructure: Hotels, Connectivity and Facilitation

Tourism infrastructure investment in Mizoram has accelerated markedly in the recent period, with the state government committing approximately Rs 395 crore toward tourism-related projects, festivals, and events infrastructure as part of a deliberate strategy to convert the state's asset base, discussed in Section 19.1, into a more fully developed visitor economy (newkerala.com, 2026). Physical connectivity improvements documented throughout this framework carry direct tourism infrastructure significance: the September 2025 opening of the Bairabi-Sairang railway line, discussed in Chapter 8, has materially improved access to the state, reducing the travel friction that has historically constrained Mizoram's tourism growth relative to its underlying asset base, while continued Lengpui Airport route expansion, with direct flights available from Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati, and Imphal as of 2026, further broadens practical visitor access (blog.gettransfer.com, 2026; Wild Hill Adventure, 2026).

Visitor facilitation in Mizoram continues to require an Inner Line Permit for Indian citizens, obtainable online, and a Protected Area Permit for foreign visitors, a regulatory framework rooted in the state's border security context discussed in Chapters 1 and 15, and one that tourism planning and marketing must continue to account for as a distinctive procedural step

in the state's visitor journey relative to most other Indian tourist destinations (Wild Hill Adventure, 2026). The Tourism Department's own digital service infrastructure, including online booking systems for tourist lodges and for the Thenzawl Golf Course, alongside online registration portals for tourism service providers and hotels operating under Ministry of Tourism guidelines, reflects the broader digital public infrastructure development discussed in Chapter 16 extending specifically into the tourism facilitation domain (Tourism Department, Government of Mizoram, 2026).

19.3 Domestic and International Tourist Flows: Trends and Targets

Mizoram's tourism sector has recorded striking recent growth, with state tourism officials reporting growth of approximately 145 percent, reflecting both the infrastructure and connectivity improvements discussed in Section 19.2 and the deliberate destination marketing strategy discussed further below (newkerala.com, 2026). To convert this growth momentum into sustained, year-round visitor demand rather than concentrated seasonal peaks, Mizoram Tourism launched the Mizoram Tourism Events and Festival Calendar 2026 on 15 December 2025, curating major festivals, cultural showcases, and sporting events across all seasons, an initiative the state's Tourism Department Director explicitly described as a market-driven tool designed, in her words, to move the state from seasonal tourism toward a genuinely year-round tourism economy (newkerala.com, 2026).

Sporting event tourism has become a deliberate strategic pillar of this diversification effort, most visibly through the Aizawl International Half Marathon, held for the second time on 14 February 2026 at Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, building on a successful debut edition, carrying Athletics Federation of India accreditation and a prize pool exceeding Rs 15 lakh, and targeting approximately 5,000 runners, explicitly designed to position Aizawl on the national sports tourism map while generating predictable, planned demand for hotels, restaurants, and local transport operators (blog.gettransfer.com, 2026). This framework identifies this event-led, calendar-based destination marketing strategy as a genuinely sophisticated approach relative to the tourism marketing sophistication typically found in smaller Indian states, and recommends its continued expansion, potentially including adventure sport events leveraging Mizoram's trekking and hill terrain assets discussed in Section 19.1, as a complementary addition to the existing cultural festival and road-running event portfolio.

19.4 Cultural Heritage Preservation and Institutional Framework

Cultural heritage preservation in Mizoram, discussed in relation to urban heritage assets in Chapter 11, operates through the state Tourism Department in coordination with the Art and Culture Department, which oversees preservation of Mizo traditional cultural practice, including festival traditions such as Chapchar Kut discussed in Section 19.1, and supports village-based cultural tourism initiatives such as the ecotourism development project at Khamrang, for which the Tourism Minister laid the foundation stone as part of the state's broader ecotourism development strategy (Tourism Department, Government of Mizoram, 2026).

This framework's Chapter 11 recommendation that urban planning for Aizawl and secondary towns explicitly incorporate heritage and cultural landscape preservation and interpretation infrastructure applies with equal force to the state's rural and village-based heritage assets discussed here, and this framework further recommends that cultural heritage preservation planning be explicitly integrated with the village-based ecotourism development model already being piloted at Khamrang, extending it to additional villages possessing distinctive traditional architecture, craft production, or historical significance, consistent with the community-based, locally embedded development approach this framework has recommended across multiple preceding chapters.

19.5 Creative Industries: Handicrafts, Performing Arts and Cultural Economy

Mizoram's creative industries centre substantially on its distinctive handloom and handicraft traditions, with Thenzawl, discussed in Section 19.1, serving as the state's key textile hub, home to handloom training centres in neighbouring Serchhip that allow visitors to learn traditional weaving techniques directly, an interactive tourism model that simultaneously supports craft skill transmission, income generation for artisans, and visitor engagement (Grokikipedia, 2026). Annual craft fairs, including the Winter Festival and the SARAS Aajeevika Mela, provide artisan demonstration and sales platforms that promote both cultural exchange and direct economic empowerment for craft producers, supported by institutions including the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (Grokikipedia, 2026).

Bamboo craft production, discussed throughout this framework's economic chapters, particularly Chapters 3, 4, and 13, in relation to the state's bamboo resource base and its industrial and environmental significance, represents a further important creative industry and cultural economy strand, one this framework recommends be more deliberately linked to the tourism and creative industries strategy discussed in this chapter, given the natural complementarity between bamboo craft's cultural and artisanal significance and its industrial and environmental value chain potential documented elsewhere in this framework. Performing arts, particularly the traditional Cheraw bamboo dance and other folk dance traditions performed at Chapchar Kut and similar festivals discussed in Section 19.1, alongside the state's strong choral and church music traditions rooted in the Christian institutional culture discussed in Chapter 1, represent a further creative economy asset with growing potential for cultural tourism programming, performance-based visitor experiences, and, prospectively, wider media and content distribution discussed in Section 19.6.

19.6 Film, Media and Content Industries as Economic Drivers

Film, media, and content industries remain at an early stage of development in Mizoram relative to the state's cultural asset base discussed throughout this chapter, though the state's strong literacy, English proficiency, and digital connectivity expansion discussed in Chapter 16 collectively provide a favourable foundation for future growth in this sector, whether through documentary and cultural content production showcasing the state's festivals and

natural heritage discussed in Section 19.1, or through the kind of locally produced Mizo-language content that, as this framework has noted in Chapter 5's discussion of digital education, already has a track record of successful community and church-based media distribution in the state.

This framework recommends that Mizoram's creative economy strategy for the period to 2047 explicitly extend beyond the already well-established handicraft and festival tourism strands discussed in Sections 19.1 through 19.5 into a more deliberate film, media, and digital content development agenda, potentially building on the same digital public infrastructure and skilling initiatives discussed in Chapters 16 and 17, positioning Mizoram to capture a larger share of the growing India-wide market for authentic, culturally distinctive regional content, an opportunity that would also provide a further outlet for the youth entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem discussed in Chapter 17, and one that could over time help address the graduate underemployment and outmigration pressures documented in Chapter 3 by creating a new category of creative and content-economy employment within the state itself. The chapter that follows turns to the cross-cutting themes and integrated policy imperatives that draw together the sector-specific findings of this and preceding chapters into a more unified analytical frame.

Chapter 20: Cross-Cutting Themes and Integrated Policy Imperatives

20.1 Sustainable Development Goals of the State

Mizoram's performance against the Sustainable Development Goals, assessed through NITI Aayog's SDG India Index at the state level and, with greater granularity, through the second edition of the North Eastern Region District SDG Index (2023-24), released on 7 July 2025, presents one of the strongest sub-national SDG performance profiles in India. All eleven of Mizoram's districts, discussed in Chapter 1, achieved Front Runner status, scoring between 65 and 99 on the composite index, a distinction shared with only two other Northeastern states, Sikkim and Tripura, out of the eight states assessed, with no Mizoram district falling into the lower Aspirant or Performer categories (NITI Aayog, 2025; PIB, 2025). Hnahthial district recorded the highest composite SDG score of any district across the entire 121-district Northeastern region at 81.43, followed closely by Champhai at 79.8, both substantially ahead of the lowest-scoring district in the region, Longding in Arunachal Pradesh, at 58.71 (Medical Dialogues, 2025; PIB, 2025). This district-level achievement reflects the state's demonstrated progress across health, education, gender equality, clean water, and sustainable community indicators documented throughout this framework's sectoral chapters, from the maternal and child health achievements discussed in Chapter 6 to the Jal Jeevan Mission universal coverage milestone discussed in Chapter 10 and the exceptional forest cover performance discussed in Chapter 13.

At the same time, the same index report identified Mizoram, alongside Nagaland, as exhibiting the largest intra-state disparity between best and worst-performing districts of any state in the region, a gap of 13.72 points between Mizoram's highest and lowest-scoring districts, a finding this framework first flagged in Chapter 1, Section 1.7 (PIB, 2025). This combination, uniformly strong aggregate performance alongside a real and persistent internal gradient generally running from the Aizawl-Champhai-Hnahthial core toward the more peripheral southern and western districts, is the central SDG-related finding this framework asks readers to carry forward into the Vision 2047 chapter that follows: Mizoram's SDG achievement, while genuine, is not yet uniformly distributed across its own territory, and closing this intra-state gap, rather than further improving an already strong state-level aggregate, represents the more precise and consequential SDG priority for the period to 2030 and beyond.

20.2 Gender Mainstreaming Across Sectors

Gender mainstreaming, examined in depth in Chapter 7, Section 7.4, in relation to the striking gap between Mizoram's strong female education, literacy, and electoral participation indicators and its historically weak formal political representation, recurs as a cross-cutting theme across several other chapters of this framework. The FOCUS climate-resilient farming project discussed in Chapter 18 explicitly incorporates a dedicated gender strategy into its agricultural income enhancement design, targeting benefit and participation outcomes for women farmers directly rather than assuming gender-neutral programme design automatically delivers equitable outcomes, an approach this framework endorses and recommends be extended systematically across the state's other flagship sectoral programmes, including Bana Kaih, discussed in Chapters 2, 3, and 18, and the Mizoram Startup Mission and Bana Kaih Venture Capital Fund discussed in Chapter 17.

This framework's cross-cutting recommendation on gender mainstreaming is that the state establish a formal requirement for gender-disaggregated monitoring and, where relevant, gender-specific design features across all major state flagship schemes, not only in agriculture where the FOCUS project has already established a precedent, but equally in the startup and entrepreneurship ecosystem discussed in Chapter 17, the skill development and TVET architecture discussed in Chapters 5 and 17, and the political and civic leadership development initiative this framework recommended in Chapter 7 as a direct response to the state's persistent gap between women's strong civic engagement and weak formal political representation.

20.3 Youth Policy and Demographic Dividend Realisation

Mizoram's youth population, discussed in Chapter 1's demographic analysis and returned to throughout this framework's economic and education chapters, represents both the state's greatest development asset and its most acute policy challenge, a tension this framework has characterized consistently as a mismatch between strong educational attainment, discussed in Chapter 5, and insufficient in-state formal employment absorption capacity, discussed in Chapter 3. Realizing Mizoram's demographic dividend, the economic benefit that accrues to a population with a favourable, working-age-heavy age structure, depends on the state's ability to convert this youth cohort's education and skills into productive employment, whether through the growth corridor-aligned skill development strategy recommended in Chapters 5 and 17, the youth entrepreneurship ecosystem documented in Chapter 17, or continued, better-supported outmigration to opportunities elsewhere in India, an outcome this framework has argued in Chapter 3 should be treated as a legitimate and partially manageable outcome rather than purely as a policy failure to be reversed.

This framework recommends that Mizoram develop an explicit, standalone State Youth Policy, if one does not already exist in current form, that consolidates the youth-relevant threads distributed across this framework's education, skill development, entrepreneurship, and sports and tourism chapters, discussed in Chapters 5, 17, and 19 respectively, the latter given the youth-oriented sports tourism initiatives such as the Aizawl International Half Marathon discussed in Chapter 19, into a single coordinated youth development strategy with clear ownership, targets, and inter-departmental coordination mechanisms.

20.4 Migration: Internal, Inter-State and International Dimensions

Migration operates as a defining cross-cutting theme throughout this framework at three distinct scales. Internal migration within Mizoram, discussed in Chapter 11's treatment of urbanization trends, continues to drive Aizawl's rapid urban growth relative to the state's more rural and remote districts, with direct consequences for the housing, water and sanitation, and urban service delivery pressures discussed in Chapters 10 and 11. Inter-state migration, discussed in Chapter 3's labour market analysis, sees a substantial flow of educated Mizo youth to Guwahati, Delhi, Bengaluru, and other mainland Indian cities in search of employment and further education opportunities that the state's own narrow formal

labour market cannot fully absorb, a pattern this framework has recommended be treated as a manageable and partially beneficial feature of the state's development trajectory, provided it is supported by appropriate skilling alignment and diaspora engagement policy, discussed in Chapter 3, Section 3.9.

International migration, specifically the substantial and continuing inflow of Myanmar nationals from Chin State fleeing instability following the 2021 military coup, discussed in Chapters 1, 4, and 6, represents the most complex and least conventionally addressed migration dimension in this framework, since this population falls outside formal Census counting and most standard state planning denominators, discussed in Chapter 1, even as it places genuine and material demand on the state's health system, discussed in Chapter 6, Section 6.7, and its broader social infrastructure. This framework's cross-cutting recommendation is that the state establish a dedicated inter-departmental migration coordination cell, bringing together the Health, Education, Home, and Social Welfare Departments alongside the state's engagement with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, to develop a more systematic, data-informed approach to service planning for this population, rather than allowing each department to address the cross-border displacement's service implications in isolation, as appears to be the current pattern based on the evidence reviewed across this framework's health, education, and governance chapters.

20.5 Science, Technology and Innovation for Development

Science, technology, and innovation for development in Mizoram, examined in depth in Chapter 17, and touched on throughout this framework's discussion of digital public infrastructure in Chapter 16, geospatial disaster risk applications in Chapter 14, and horticultural and agricultural science priorities in Chapter 18, benefits from being understood as a genuinely cross-cutting capability rather than a sector confined to the Higher and Technical Education and Commerce and Industries Departments alone. This framework's recurring recommendation across multiple chapters, that Mizoram's science, technology, and innovation investment be explicitly targeted at closing the state's own documented specialized-capacity gaps, health specialist deployment discussed in Chapter 6, landslide and disaster risk monitoring discussed in Chapter 14, and horticultural value chain development discussed in Chapter 18, rather than pursuing generic, undifferentiated technology adoption, applies with particular force at this cross-cutting, whole-of-government level, and this framework recommends the state establish a small, centrally coordinated Science, Technology and Innovation Council, drawing membership from across the departments and knowledge institutions discussed in Chapter 17, to ensure the state's innovation investment priorities remain coherently aligned across departments rather than fragmented into isolated, department-specific technology initiatives.

20.6 Statistical System Strengthening and Evidence-Based Policymaking

This framework's preparation has repeatedly encountered a recurring methodological constraint that itself constitutes an important cross-cutting policy finding: the absence of a

completed 2021 Census, discussed in Chapter 1, has required this entire framework to rely on projected, survey-based, or administratively derived population and demographic estimates rather than enumerated Census data for nearly every chapter's demographic denominator, from the GER and dropout rate calculations discussed in Chapter 5, to the per capita income and poverty headcount figures discussed in Chapters 1 and 3, to the health facility and disease burden planning discussed in Chapter 6. This is not a criticism specific to Mizoram, since the Census delay is a national, not state-specific, circumstance, but its practical planning consequences are felt with particular intensity in a small state where survey sample sizes are correspondingly small and where the margin of estimation uncertainty around key demographic figures is proportionally larger than in bigger states, as this framework has flagged repeatedly.

This framework recommends that, pending the eventual conduct of the delayed Census, Mizoram's Directorate of Economics and Statistics invest in strengthening the state's own administrative and survey-based data infrastructure as an interim substitute, building on the genuine strengths this framework has already documented, the GIS-based health facility mapping discussed in Chapter 6, the Poshan Tracker nutrition monitoring discussed in Chapter 6, and the UDISE+ education data system discussed in Chapter 5, into a more comprehensively integrated state statistical system capable of providing the kind of granular, current, and reliable evidence base that effective evidence-based policymaking across all twenty-one chapters of this framework ultimately depends upon.

20.7 Public Participation: Behavioural Change and Citizen Engagement

Public participation and behavioural change communication, examined in specific sectoral contexts throughout this framework, prohibition and substance use behaviour change discussed in Chapter 6 and Chapter 15, ODF Plus and sanitation behaviour discussed in Chapter 10, and the community-based disaster response tradition of tlawmngaihna discussed in Chapter 14, together illustrate what this framework considers Mizoram's single most distinctive and valuable cross-cutting development asset: a civic culture, rooted in church, Village Council, and Young Mizo Association institutions discussed throughout this framework beginning in Chapter 1, capable of translating formal government policy into genuine, community-level behaviour change and mutual support action with an effectiveness that this framework has found, across sector after sector, to exceed what formal government institutions could plausibly achieve acting alone, given the specialized-capacity and dispersed-settlement constraints documented repeatedly throughout this document.

This framework's single most important cross-cutting recommendation, synthesizing findings from nearly every preceding chapter, is that Mizoram's state government formalize and systematize its partnership with these community institutions across every major public participation and citizen engagement domain, rather than continuing to rely on ad hoc, sector-by-sector, and often informal collaboration with church, Village Council, and civil society bodies. A state with Mizoram's genuinely distinctive civic and community institutional strength has an opportunity, available to few other Indian states, to build a public

participation and citizen engagement model explicitly designed around this strength, and this framework's Vision 2047 chapter, which follows, returns to this theme as one of the central strategic pillars around which Mizoram's long-term development roadmap should be organized.

Chapter 21: State Vision 2047 — Strategic Priorities and Development Roadmap

21.1 Long-Term Vision and Flagship Missions

This Comprehensive Development Framework has examined Mizoram across twenty preceding chapters, from its geography and demography in Chapter 1 through its fiscal architecture, economic structure, human development sectors, infrastructure, environment, governance, and cross-cutting themes. Drawing these threads together, this framework proposes a long-term vision for Mizoram to 2047, the centenary year of India's independence and the horizon year of the Government of India's own Viksit Bharat @2047 ambition, organized around four flagship missions that respond directly to the central findings of this framework.

The first flagship mission, the Human Capital Consolidation Mission, responds to this framework's central education finding, documented in Chapter 5, that Mizoram's legacy literacy achievement has not been matched by current school system retention and secondary-stage performance, and its central health finding, documented in Chapter 6, that the state's exceptional infant mortality performance coexists with an anomalous and unresolved neonatal mortality pattern. This mission's objective is to convert Mizoram's human capital legacy into a currently functioning, high-performing education and health system rather than resting on past achievement.

The second flagship mission, the Economic Diversification and Growth Corridor Mission, responds to this framework's repeated finding, across Chapters 3, 4, 17, and 18, that Mizoram's three identified growth corridors, horticulture and agro-processing, border trade and logistics, and services and human capital export, represent the state's most credible pathway to reducing its narrow economic base and graduate underemployment documented throughout this framework, and this mission's objective is to sequence skill development, entrepreneurship support, infrastructure investment, and market access policy explicitly around these three corridors rather than pursuing generic, undifferentiated economic development activity.

The third flagship mission, the Resilient Infrastructure and Climate Security Mission, responds to this framework's Chapter 14 finding that Mizoram faces a landslide, seismic, and extreme rainfall hazard profile more acute than almost any other Indian state, and its Chapter 9 finding that the state's energy security depends on converting vast untapped renewable potential into actual installed capacity, and this mission's objective is to ensure that the state's continued, and necessary, infrastructure expansion, documented across Chapters 8, 9, 10, and 11, proceeds in a manner explicitly resilient to, rather than vulnerable to, the state's demonstrated hazard profile.

The fourth flagship mission, the Community-Institution Partnership Mission, responds to this framework's most consistently recurring cross-cutting finding, documented from Chapter 1 through Chapter 20, that Mizoram's church, Village Council, and Young Mizo Association institutions represent a genuine and underleveraged development asset, and this mission's objective is to formalize and systematize state government partnership with these institutions across health, education, disaster response, gender leadership development, and public participation more broadly, converting an informally recognized strength into a deliberately structured pillar of the state's development architecture.

21.2 Medium-Term Priority Action Plan (2025–2030)

Within the five-year window to 2030, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals' own target horizon discussed in Chapter 20, this framework identifies eight priority actions warranting immediate sequencing. First, a dedicated secondary and higher-secondary school retention intervention, discussed in Chapter 5, targeting the steep GER decline documented between secondary and higher secondary stages. Second, targeted investigation and intervention on Mizoram's anomalous neonatal mortality pattern, discussed in Chapter 6. Third, completion of the Detailed Project Report tendering process and financial closure for the 132 MW Tuivai Hydroelectric Project, discussed in Chapter 9, alongside continued solar tender rollout. Fourth, full integration of the new Sairang railhead into the state's road-based distribution network, discussed in Chapter 8, to ensure the September 2025 rail line's cost and time benefits reach all eleven districts.

Fifth, extension of the ginger processing and price support model, discussed in Chapter 18, to the state's other Bana Kaih and price-support crops, turmeric, broom grass, Mizo bird's-eye chilli, arhar, sesame, and sunflower. Sixth, operationalization of the Guarantee Redemption Fund and full Consolidated Fund routing of centrally sponsored scheme transfers, discussed in Chapter 2, to close the public financial management gaps flagged across successive CAG audit cycles. Seventh, a dedicated women's political and economic leadership development initiative, discussed in Chapter 7, building on the historic 2023 election of three women MLAs. Eighth, formal establishment of the inter-departmental migration coordination cell and the Science, Technology and Innovation Council, both discussed in Chapter 20, to address the cross-cutting coordination gaps this framework has identified as recurring weaknesses across otherwise strong sectoral programming.

21.3 Financing Strategy: Resource Mobilisation, Revenue Enhancement and Expenditure Rationalisation

Mizoram's financing strategy for the period to 2047 must be built around the fiscal reality documented in Chapter 2: a state whose own tax revenue covers only a small fraction of its expenditure, whose debt-to-GSDP ratio has risen from approximately 33 percent in 2022-23 toward a projected 43.56 percent in 2026-27, and whose committed expenditure, salaries, pensions, and interest, consumes roughly two-thirds of revenue expenditure. This framework does not recommend that Mizoram attempt to substantially reduce its reliance on central transfers, an unrealistic and, given the state's genuine cost disabilities documented throughout this framework, inappropriate objective for a small Sixth Schedule hill state. Instead, this framework recommends a financing strategy built on three complementary tracks: modest but sustained own-tax revenue growth, focused on more complete State GST compliance and administrative modernization rather than new tax categories, given the constraints on excise revenue imposed by the state's prohibition policy discussed in Chapters 2 and 15; disciplined expenditure rationalization, prioritizing the public financial management reforms discussed in Chapter 2, Section 2.8, ahead of any further debt-financed expenditure expansion; and active, well-prepared engagement with each successive Finance Commission cycle and central

scheme design process, ensuring Mizoram's specific cost disabilities, terrain-driven construction cost premiums documented across Chapters 8, 9, and 10, and international border responsibilities documented in Chapters 1 and 15, are fully reflected in devolution formulae and central scheme allocation criteria.

21.4 Centre-State Partnership: Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Special Grants

Centre-State partnership has been the single most consequential external factor shaping nearly every major development achievement documented in this framework, from the Bairabi-Sairang railway line discussed in Chapter 8, financed and constructed through Indian Railways' national Northeastern connectivity programme, to the Jal Jeevan Mission universal coverage milestone discussed in Chapter 10, to the PM-DevINE-funded Aizawl Bypass Road discussed in Chapter 8, to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region-funded Mizo Ginger Unique Selling Proposition mission discussed in Chapter 18. This framework recommends that Mizoram's Centre-State partnership strategy for the period to 2047 be built on continued, proactive engagement with the full portfolio of Northeastern region-specific central schemes, PM-DevINE, the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme, and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region sectoral grants, while ensuring state-level implementation capacity, discussed throughout this framework's governance chapters, particularly Chapter 15's civil service strength discussion, keeps pace with the scale of central scheme financing the state has increasingly been able to secure, since implementation capacity, not financing availability, appears from this framework's analysis to be the more binding constraint on the state's development pace across most sectors examined.

21.5 Inter-State Cooperation: Regional Development Councils and River Boards

Mizoram's inter-state cooperation priorities, discussed at various points throughout this framework, centre substantially on its relationship with Assam, given the shared boundary management discussed in Chapter 15 and the continued dependence of Mizoram's road and, historically, sole surface connectivity on transit through Assam discussed in Chapter 8, and with Tripura, given the shared responsibility for Bru community resettlement discussed in Chapter 7. This framework recommends that Mizoram continue to pursue structured, ministerial-level bilateral coordination mechanisms with both states, building on the boundary management dialogue already documented in Chapter 15, and that the state actively engage with regional cooperation platforms convened under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and the North Eastern Council, which provide an institutional forum for addressing shared regional infrastructure, river management, and economic development priorities that no single Northeastern state, given the small individual scale each possesses relative to national planning, can address effectively in isolation.

River basin cooperation, while less prominent in Mizoram's specific inter-state agenda than in states with major shared river systems, carries relevance in relation to the Barak river system into which several of Mizoram's northern rivers drain, discussed in Chapter 1, and this framework recommends the state maintain active participation in any relevant Barak basin

coordination mechanisms involving Assam and, where applicable, Manipur, to ensure Mizoram's own water resource and river ecosystem health priorities, discussed in Chapter 13, are represented in basin-level planning.

21.6 International Collaboration: Common Development Agenda and Global Partnership

Mizoram's international engagement, discussed throughout this framework primarily in relation to Myanmar, presents the framework's most explicitly contingent and externally dependent strategic dimension. The state's Act East Policy positioning, discussed in Chapters 4 and 8, the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, the Zokhawthar Land Custom Station, and the planned Sairang-Hmawngbuchhuah rail extension toward Myanmar, together represent a genuinely transformative long-term opportunity for the state's trade, logistics, and economic diversification agenda, but one whose realization timeline remains substantially outside the state government's own control, contingent on the political and security trajectory within Myanmar's Chin State following the 2021 coup, as this framework has emphasized in Chapters 4 and 8.

This framework recommends that Mizoram's international collaboration strategy explicitly adopt the dual-track approach already recommended in Chapter 4: continuing to prepare the institutional and physical infrastructure needed to capitalize on Myanmar border trade normalization whenever it occurs, while ensuring the state's core development agenda, the four flagship missions discussed in Section 21.1, does not remain contingent on this external development for its own success. Beyond Myanmar, this framework identifies limited but growing potential for international development partnership engagement, particularly with the United Nations Development Programme, whose technical support for the NITI Aayog North Eastern Region District SDG Index discussed in Chapter 20 already demonstrates an existing, active international partnership channel that could be extended into direct programmatic collaboration on specific sectoral priorities identified throughout this framework, particularly climate resilience, discussed in Chapter 14, and gender mainstreaming, discussed in Chapters 7 and 20.

21.7 Monitoring, Evaluation and Results Framework

This framework's Chapter 20 finding on statistical system strengthening, namely that the absence of a completed 2021 Census has required nearly every chapter of this document to rely on estimated rather than enumerated demographic data, carries direct and pressing implications for the monitoring and evaluation architecture this framework recommends for its own implementation. This framework proposes that Mizoram establish a Vision 2047 Monitoring and Results Secretariat, housed within the Planning and Programme Implementation Department given its demonstrated role in the Mizoram Startup Mission documented in Chapter 17, tasked with tracking implementation progress against the four flagship missions and the medium-term priority action plan set out in Sections 21.1 and 21.2, drawing on and further strengthening the genuinely strong data infrastructure this framework

has documented in specific sectors, the GIS-based health facility mapping and Poshan Tracker systems discussed in Chapter 6, the UDISE+ education data system discussed in Chapter 5, and the hazard vulnerability mapping discussed in Chapter 14, consolidating these into a single, cross-sectoral results dashboard rather than leaving monitoring fragmented across individual department systems as appears to be the current pattern based on the evidence reviewed throughout this framework.

This monitoring framework should report against clear, time-bound indicators tied to each of the eight medium-term priority actions identified in Section 21.2, with annual public reporting to the state Legislative Assembly, discussed further in Section 21.8, ensuring that progress, or the lack of it, against this framework's recommendations remains visible and subject to ongoing legislative and public scrutiny rather than becoming, as this framework has cautioned against throughout its governance chapters, a set of well-intentioned recommendations that fail to translate into sustained implementation follow-through.

21.8 Accountability Architecture: Legislature, Civil Society and Citizens

Accountability for the implementation of this Comprehensive Development Framework rests, appropriately, with three distinct but complementary institutional layers. The Mizoram Legislative Assembly, discussed throughout this framework's governance chapters, particularly Chapter 2's recommendation for a standing legislative committee review of annual State Finances Audit Report findings and Chapter 15's discussion of the Assembly's 2025 unanimous passage of the Liquor Prohibition Amendment Act, provides the formal, elected accountability mechanism through which this framework's fiscal, sectoral, and governance recommendations should be scrutinized on an ongoing basis, and this framework recommends the Assembly establish a dedicated Vision 2047 Implementation Committee, distinct from but coordinating with the Monitoring and Results Secretariat discussed in Section 21.7, to conduct this scrutiny function formally.

Civil society and community institutions, the church denominations, the Young Mizo Association, Village Councils, and self-help group federations discussed throughout this framework beginning in Chapter 1 and returned to as a central cross-cutting theme in Chapter 20, provide the second accountability layer, one this framework has argued throughout is distinctively strong in Mizoram relative to most other Indian states and one that should be formally invited into the Vision 2047 implementation architecture, not merely as service delivery partners, discussed in Chapters 6, 7, and 14, but as genuine accountability partners with a recognized voice in assessing whether the state's development programming is genuinely serving the communities these institutions represent.

Finally, individual citizens, exercising the strong civic and electoral participation documented in Chapter 7, particularly the striking finding that women constitute a majority of Mizoram's electorate, provide the ultimate democratic accountability layer, and this framework recommends that the annual public reporting proposed in Section 21.7 be made genuinely accessible to ordinary citizens, not merely published as a technical government document, given the state's exceptional literacy achievement documented in Chapter 1, which equips

Mizoram's citizenry more fully than in most Indian states to engage directly and meaningfully with substantive public reporting on their state's development progress.

End Note

This Comprehensive Development Framework has sought to provide a rigorous, current, and structurally coherent account of Mizoram's development position as of 2026, and a reasoned strategic roadmap toward 2047. Across the twenty-one chapters of this document, a

consistent analytical thread has recurred: Mizoram is a state whose human development and civic institutional strength, documented from Chapter 1 through Chapter 20, sits alongside genuine and specific structural constraints, a narrow fiscal base documented in Chapter 2, an under-diversified economy documented in Chapters 3 and 4, a school system whose current throughput has not matched its legacy literacy reputation documented in Chapter 5, an acute natural hazard exposure documented in Chapter 14, and a set of specialized-capacity gaps that recur across health, disaster management, and judicial administration alike.

None of these constraints are unique to Mizoram in kind, but their specific combination, and the specific institutional and cultural assets, church and community institutions, Village Councils, and a demonstrated capacity for coordinated, integrated policy design evident in initiatives such as Bana Kaih and the Jal Jeevan Mission achievement, that Mizoram brings to addressing them, are genuinely distinctive. This framework's central recommendation, echoed across nearly every chapter, is that Mizoram's development strategy for the period to 2047 build deliberately and explicitly on these distinctive assets rather than defaulting to generic, one-size-fits-all development templates designed for larger, more urbanized, or more institutionally conventional Indian states. Done well, this approach offers Mizoram a genuine and achievable path to converting its human capital legacy into a fuller, more broadly shared, and more resilient prosperity by 2047.

**Council of Comprehensive Development Framework
Youth Peace and Development Forum
Reference List**

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