No. F.20020/22/2026 – PLG-Part(1)
GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM
PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION DEPARTMENT
MIZORAM : AIZAWL

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NOTIFICATION

Dated Aizawl, the 17th June, 2026

In the interest of public service and as approved by the Council of Ministers in its meeting held on 18th May, 2026 conveyed vide No. J.11011/1/2024-POL/Vol-I dt. 18.05.2026, the Governor of Mizoram is pleased to notify "The Mizoram Startup Policy, 2026" with immediate effect.

The Policy may be downloaded from Department's website-**planning.mizoram.gov.in**

Sd/-VANLALDINA FANAI
Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Mizoram
Planning & Programme Implementation Department

Memo No.F.20020/22/2026-PLG-Part(1) : Dated Aizawl, the 17th June, 2026
Copy to:-

1. Secretary to the Governor, Mizoram.
2. P.S. to Chief Minister, Mizoram.
3. P.S. to Speaker/Ministers/Ministers of State/ Deputy Speaker, Mizoram.
4. P.S. to Vice Chairman, State Planning Board.
5. Sr.P.P.S to Chief Secretary, Government of Mizoram.
6. Sr. P.S. to Commissioner & Secretary, Planning & Programme Implementation Department.
7. P.S. to Secretary, Planning & Programme Implementation Department.
8. All Administrative Heads/All Heads of Department.
9. Principal Adviser-cum-Additional Secretary, Planning & Programme Implementation Department (RDB).
10. Controller, Printing & Stationery with a request to publish in the Official Gazette.
11. Under Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram, Political & Cabinet Department.
12. Chief Executive Officer, MSUM.
13. Guard file No. 12.

Digitally signed by
LALENGZAMI RALTE
Date: 17-06-2026
15:50:51

(LALENGZAMI RALTE)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram
Planning & Programme Implementation Department

No. 8518
Date 18/6/26
Planning (RC3) Department

THE MIZORAM STARTUP POLICY, 2026

GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM
PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION DEPARTMENT

JANUARY, 2026

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I. PREAMBLE

The State of Mizoram, owing to factors both historic and geographical, has remained in relative isolation with industrialization and technological advancements that have brought prosperity to so many other states of India having had limited penetration in this far corner of the Country. The young State has suddenly found itself emerging in a globalized economy and now must catch up to her sister-states in this competitive world with an innovative, market oriented and factor endowment-based strategy for growth.

The Government believes that as the engine of economic growth, Entrepreneurship is the ideal approach to address traditional development problems in innovative ways. It is the most feasible option for solving the unemployment problem and the best tool for bringing about a more equitable distribution of wealth and bridge the gap between the urban and rural areas.

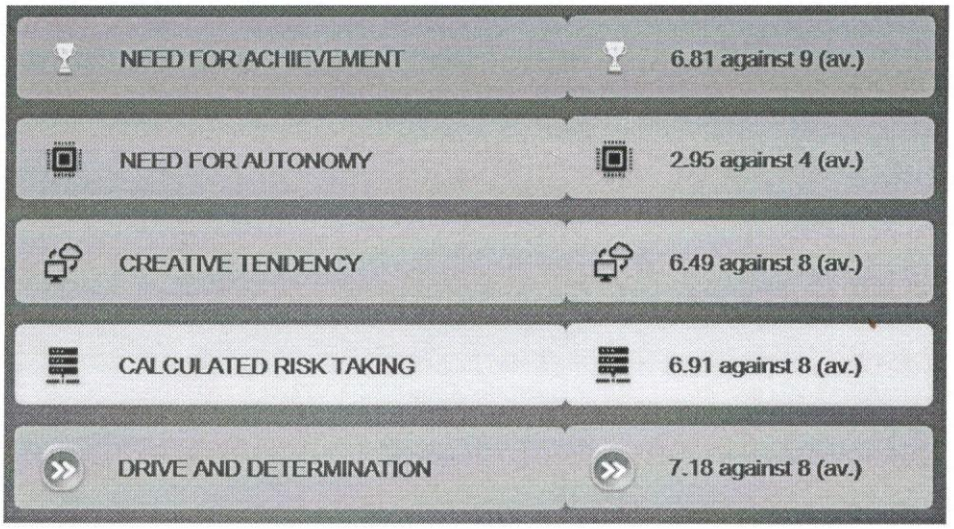
As per the latest available Census, about 30 per cent of the population in Mizoram is between 0 and 14 years old, and more than 64 per cent of the population is in the working age group (i.e., 15-59). In terms of demography, Mizoram is entering its golden age to reap demographic dividend with high potential to boost economic productivity. The aspirations and achievements of these young people will shape the future of Mizoram.

Mizoram is witnessing an emergence of a young business class with sharp entrepreneurial acumen with a drive for success. Not only do these potential contributors to the economy need to be encouraged and supported, the spirit of entrepreneurship needs to be promoted further especially among the youth of the State.

General Enterprising Tendency (GET) Test

The General Enterprising Tendency Test was conducted in Mizoram in 2018 to analyse the enterprising tendency scores of Higher Secondary School and College Students and provide a reference for entrepreneurship educators in pedagogical design and curriculum development and for relevant authorities in drafting policies in entrepreneurship development programs. The test was

conducted for 2255 students, between 14-30 years of age from Higher Secondary Schools and Colleges in 8 districts of Mizoram existing at that time, i.e., Aizawl, Champhai, Lunglei, Kolasib, Lawngtlai, Siaha, Mamit, Serchhip. The results showed the mean enterprising tendency score of 30.3659.



On average, Higher Secondary students scored better than College students, especially in 'need for autonomy' and 'creative tendency', which implied that when the age of respondents increased, their enterprising tendencies decreased. In terms of district-wise results, Aizawl District exhibited highest mean scores for 'need for achievement', 'creative tendency', 'calculated risk taking' and 'drive & determination', lagging behind only in the score for 'need for autonomy'.

With this perspective, the Mizoram Startup Policy, 2026 seeks to build a better environment in which young minds can be enervated to explore their creativity and entrepreneurial acumen to the fullest, and where entrepreneurs and startups can innovate and commercialize the results of their creativity to create jobs and wealth for the community. This Policy aligns with the Government of India's Startup initiatives while introducing state-specific strategies to address Mizoram's unique context.

II. VISION

To position Mizoram as a leading hub of innovation-driven entrepreneurship, empowering startups to create lasting social and economic impact.

III. MISSION

To create, nurture and coordinate the development of a vibrant & sustainable startup eco-system and promulgate a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation in Mizoram.

IV. OBJECTIVES

1. Cultivate Entrepreneurial Culture: Encourage a culture of entrepreneurship by inspiring and enabling aspiring entrepreneurs to turn their innovative ideas into successful startups.
2. Strengthen Ecosystem: Build and nurture a vibrant startup ecosystem recognized by the Government.
3. Inclusive Support: Support startups throughout their developmental phases of formation, validation, growth, expansion and maturity, with due emphasis on women-led startups, student-entrepreneurs and startups that promote circular economy.
4. Education & Skill Development: Develop entrepreneurship education programmes, workshops, and training to equip startups with necessary skills and knowledge, and facilitate entrepreneurship education in school curriculum.
5. Resource Access: Provide startups and entrepreneurs with the necessary resources, mentorship, handholding and access to networks to accelerate their growth and scale their businesses.
6. Regulatory Ease: Create institutional support for entrepreneurs and startups through setting up of entrepreneurship development centres and cells,

incubation centres, and facilitate regulatory frameworks for single window clearance, ease of doing business, startup subsidies, public procurement norms etc.

7. Financial Support: Facilitate access to funding opportunities, including grants, equity investments, and low-interest loans, to support startup development and expansion in partnership with Governments and financial institutions.
8. Collaboration & Networking: Create a robust network of stakeholders, including government agencies, investors, industry experts, inventors, mentors, and other partners to facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing.

IV. SCOPE

This Policy covers the whole state of Mizoram and offers handholding programmes, incentives, grants, and other support services to all eligible startups based in Mizoram and to any Mizo who is a founder member of startup registered outside Mizoram. The Policy's provisions are subject to detailed scheme guidelines and availability of funds, and no automatic right to assistance is implied without fulfilling eligibility and procedural requirements.

V. POLICY PERIOD

The Mizoram Startup Policy, 2026 shall be effective from the date of its notification and will remain in force until superseded or amended by the Government of Mizoram.

VI. DEFINITIONS

1. *Aspiring startup*: An entrepreneur or an entity who may not fall under the category startup but wants to upgrade as a startup.
2. *Entrepreneur*: An individual who identifies opportunities, takes risks, mobilizes resources to create new ventures or improve existing ones,

develops and transforms a new idea or invention into a good or service that creates value in the market.

3. *Ideation:* A pre-production/pre-launch stage where the entrepreneurs or innovator has ideated a new product or a service.

4. *Incubator:* An incubator is a physical or virtual infrastructure that provides a platform to eligible startups for business support through mentoring, providing networking opportunities with investors, training and other common facilities. Eligible Incubators should be registered with the nodal program.

5. *Innovative project*: The introduction of a creative idea that causes a new product, process or service, or which provides an improved solution that meets new requirements, unarticulated needs or existing market requirements.

6. *Mentor*: An individual from various backgrounds and roles, each bringing unique perspectives and expertise to support aspiring business leaders. The types of individuals who commonly serve as mentors for aspiring startups, startups, entrepreneurs are Experienced Entrepreneurs, Industry Experts, Investors, Academic Advisors, Business Coaches and Government or Non-Profit Advisors.

7. *MSUM:* Mizoram Startup Mission, a society under Planning & Programme Implementation Department registered under the Mizoram Societies Registration Act, 2005 with Registration No. MSR 1547 of 20.10.2022.

8. *MSUM Team:* A team composed of professionals engaged to execute the various components of the Startup Policy under the guidance of the MSUM Governing Board and MSUM Executive Committee.

9. *MSUM Community:* It is a feature available on the website *https://startupmizoram.com*. It serves as a platform for individuals who are interested in entrepreneurship to register themselves and become part of Mizoram's entrepreneurship and startup ecosystem. Members of the

community are recognized as part of the broader MSUM network and may be eligible to receive benefits, updates, and support offered under the Mizoram Startup Mission, whenever applicable.

10. *Pre-Seed Stage Startup:* A startup that is in the idea generation, refinement and validation stage.

11. *Public-Welfare Startup*: A DPIIT-recognised startup whose primary products/services directly address public-interest challenges resulting in measurable social outcomes for underserved populations.

12. *Startup*: Startup means an entity recognized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as a startup. An entity shall be considered as a Startup:

    i. Upto a period of ten years from the date of incorporation/ registration, if it is incorporated as a private limited company (as defined in the Companies Act, 2013) or registered as a partnership firm (registered under section 59 of the Partnership Act, 1932) or a limited liability partnership (under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008) in India.

    ii. Turnover of the entity for any of the financial years since incorporation/ registration has not exceeded one hundred crore rupees.

    iii. Entity is working towards innovation, development or improvement of products or processes or services, or if it is a scalable business model with a high potential of employment generation or wealth creation.

    Provided that an entity formed by splitting up or reconstruction of an existing business shall not be considered a 'Startup'.

13. *State Government or Government:* Government of Mizoram, unless stated otherwise.

14. *Women-led startups:* A Startup where a woman owns and controls a proprietary concern; or an Entity (Company/ LLP/ Partnership/ Cooperative/ Society) in which one or more women collectively:

- hold at least 51% of the ownership/beneficial interest (equity share capital / capital contribution / profit share, as applicable), and
- hold the controlling stake/decision-making control, evidenced through voting rights, management rights, and authority to operate the Entity.

VII. POLICY GOVERNANCE

The Mizoram Startup Policy, 2026 shall be administered by the Mizoram Startup Mission, with its Governing Board chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Government of Mizoram.

1. Mizoram Startup Mission

Mizoram Startup Mission (MSUM) is a government society under Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Govt. of Mizoram which was established vide Gazette Notification No.B.14011/1/2021-22/MSUM dated 27th September, 2022, and registered under the Mizoram Societies Registration Act, 2005 with the registration no. MSR 1547 of 20.10.2022.

(1) The MSUM Governing Board has the following composition:

Chairman	:	Chief Secretary, Government of Mizoram.
Alternate Chairman	:	Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram, Planning & Programme Implementation Department.
Official Members	:	❖ Administrative Heads of the following State Departments - Finance Department, Commerce & Industries Department, Higher & Technical Education, School Education Department, and

Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department,

- ❖ Secretary, Finance Department, Land Revenue & Settlement Department, Information & Communication Technology Department, Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare Department, Tourism Department, Horticulture Department, AH & Vety Department, Fisheries Department, Excise & Narcotics Department.
- ❖ Principal Adviser-cum-Additional Secretary, Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram.
- ❖ Adviser-cum-Joint Secretary, Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram.

Expert Members : 3 (three) notable individuals from the entrepreneurship community and academia.

Member Secretary : Deputy Adviser-cum-Deputy Secretary, Planning & Programme Implementation Department.

(2) The MSUM Executive Committee has the following composition:

Chairman : Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram, Planning & Programme Implementation Department.

Official Members :

- ❖ Principal Adviser-cum-Additional Secretary, Planning & Programme Implementation

Department, Government of Mizoram, Joint Secretary, Finance Department.

- ❖ Director, Land Revenue & Settlement Department, Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare Department, Tourism Department, AH & Vety Department, Horticulture Department, Fisheries Department.
- ❖ Chief Informatics Officer, ICT, Commissioner of Excise & Narcotics, Joint Commissioner of State Tax.
- ❖ Adviser-cum-Joint Secretary, Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram.

Expert Members	:	3 (three) notable individuals from the entrepreneurship community and academia.
Member	:	Chief Executive Officer, MSUM.
Member Secretary	:	Deputy Adviser-cum-Deputy Secretary, Planning & Programme Implementation Department.

2. Nodal and apex coordinating agency

MSUM will be the nodal and apex coordinating agency of the Government of Mizoram for implementation of this Policy and for development of the startup ecosystem in the State. MSUM will facilitate, promote, coordinate, converge, monitor and report all startup and entrepreneurship initiatives undertaken under this Policy across Departments and State agencies.

3. Mandatory coordination by Departments/State agencies

All stakeholder Departments, Boards, Corporations, PSUs and other State agencies implementing or proposing any entrepreneurship/startup-related initiative will coordinate with MSUM to ensure convergence, avoidance of duplication, consistent messaging to beneficiaries, and alignment with this Policy.

4. Departmental Startup Nodal Officers

Each Department represented in the MSUM governance structure, and any other Department/agency notified by the Government, will designate a Departmental Startup Nodal Officer (not below a level to be notified, preferably Deputy Secretary level) as the single point of contact for all startup-related matters. The Nodal Officer will ensure timely coordination, data-sharing and implementation support.

5. Prescribed formats, registers and reporting

MSUM will prescribe standard operating procedures (SOPs), templates and reporting formats for implementation of this Policy. All concerned Departments and agencies will furnish required information to MSUM within prescribed timelines, including (as applicable):

a) startup/entrepreneurship programmes implemented or proposed and their implementing arrangements;
b) beneficiary lists and support provided (type/extent/date), subject to applicable confidentiality;
c) incubation, mentorship, market access and procurement initiatives linked to startups; and
d) outcomes achieved against targets, for monitoring and for reporting under national evaluation frameworks.

6. Issue resolution and escalation

MSUM will convene inter-departmental meetings and thematic working groups to resolve implementation issues. Matters that cannot be resolved at the

working level will be placed before the MSUM Executive Committee for directions. Matters requiring policy-level guidance or inter-departmental direction will be placed before the MSUM Governing Board, whose directions will guide implementation of this Policy.

VIII. ECOSYSTEM BUILDING

Building a strong startup ecosystem in Mizoram requires a concerted effort from various stakeholders, including the government, investors, entrepreneurs, and the wider community. The Policy is mapped to the Reform Areas of the States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking undertaken by Startup India under DPIIT, so that each intervention translates into measurable outcomes of reform under the said framework, while also introducing regional elements in order to remain sensitive to Mizoram's demographic, geographic and cultural context. The Policy initiative is composed of the following seven reform areas.

1. Institutional Support

Strong institutional support converts policy intent into implementable programmes with accountability, and sustains outcomes beyond individual initiatives. Furthermore, the cycle of innovation and the successful transformation of its outcomes into commercial ventures primarily relies on the close cooperation among key players, including research institutions, private innovative businesses, and government agencies that establish the necessary conditions for this process. Accordingly, the Policy's primary objective is to institutionalize durable support structures that continuously cultivate a dynamic, statewide startup ecosystem through the following means:-

1.1. Institutional Anchor

The State's institutional architecture for startups will be anchored in a clearly notified governance structure as indicated in the 'VII. Policy Governance' section of this Policy. The Mizoram Startup Mission is to serve as the nodal agency, coordinating and consolidating all startup-promotion initiatives under the Mizoram Startup Policy.

1.2. Whole of Government Approach

a) *Coordination with Stakeholder Departments*: The promotion of a vibrant entrepreneurial and startup ecosystem is a multi-disciplinary endeavour pertinent across multi-departmental purviews. The Policy seeks to create a coordinated effort among various central ministries and state departments in order to provide critical institutional support to startups by simplifying regulatory processes, offering funding and grants, providing access to enabling infrastructure, tax incentives, creating public procurement opportunities and data access to further empower startups. The institutional anchor will ensure effective sharing of details on schemes and policies facilitating Startups and support provided by all state departments.

b) *Collaboration with Non-Government Support Systems*: In addition to government entities at both the central and state levels, the non-governmental organizations and industry associations that actively champion the interests of entrepreneurs and startups will be collaborated. The policy emphasizes the growing importance of these associations in establishing shared resources and collaborating on technology, marketing, and various support systems.

c) *Partnerships with Academia*: Higher Educational Institutes play a vital role in the success of startups. They provide education and training opportunities to aspiring entrepreneurs, as well as conduct research and development in areas that are relevant to the startup ecosystem. They can also establish incubation and acceleration programs to support startups and provide them with the resources and mentorship they need to succeed. The Government will establish partnerships with academic institutions to help create a supportive environment for startups and ensure that they have the resources they need to grow and succeed.

d) *Cooperation with Banking & Financial Institutions*: The Government will explore possibilities of collaborations with banking and financial institutions to bolster support for entrepreneurs and startups. These collaborations would encompass a range of initiatives, including setting

up venture capital funds, providing moral guarantee to credit worthy startups to ease financial access, incentivize financial institutions to offer more favorable terms to early-stage businesses etc. Additionally, joint cooperation will extend to organizing financial literacy programs, incubation and acceleration initiatives, streamlined regulations, and even data sharing to enhance the startup ecosystem.

1.3. Development with a Futuristic and Disruptive Focus

To future-proof Mizoram's startup ecosystem, the Policy shall actively promote startups working on cutting-edge, disruptive technologies and emerging sectors with high economic or social impact potential. These may include (but are not limited to) AI/ML, blockchain, biotech, agritech, clean tech, health tech, mobility, fintech, IoT, drone technology, renewable energy, circular economy, and creative industries.

The Government will publish and update a Priority Sector List at least once every two years through the Mizoram Startup Mission (MSUM), in consultation with industry and academia. Startups aligned with these priority sectors shall receive preferential access to funding schemes, incubation opportunities, procurement support, pilot projects, and promotional campaigns.

Key policy instruments under this focus shall include:

a) *Incentive Weightage*: Startups from priority sectors will receive additional marks or priority scoring during selection for state-supported programs (e.g., grants, accelerators, challenges).

b) *Startup Challenges and Hackathons*: MSUM, in collaboration with relevant departments, shall organize thematic innovation challenges and hackathons in priority sectors, ensuring real-world problem statements from departments or industry bodies.

c) *Pilot and Sandbox Opportunities*: Government departments may collaborate with eligible startups from these sectors to conduct pilot

implementations or sandbox trials within controlled environments, with support from MSUM.

d) *Research and Academic Linkages*: Priority sector startups will be eligible for targeted R&D or co-development partnerships with academic/research institutions, facilitated by MSUM and relevant departments.

e) *Outreach and Promotion*: Startups operating in disruptive or high-potential future sectors shall be showcased prominently in state-level startup summits, exhibitions, and on the State Startup Portal.

1.4. Women Entrepreneurship Development

In order to leverage Mizoram's comparatively high participation of women in the workforce and to promote inclusive, equitable entrepreneurship, the Government will incorporate Women Entrepreneurship Development approach in its programmes under the Policy. Firstly, for the purposes of this Policy, a Women-led Startup / Women Entrepreneur has been clearly defined which is stated in Part VI: DEFINITIONS. Secondly, Women-led startups will receive preferential consideration through transparent mechanisms such as:

(i) additional weightage in selection for state-supported programs and incubation/acceleration cohorts;

(ii) earmarked minimum share of beneficiaries in select schemes/programs (to be specified in scheme guidelines); and

(ii) targeted outreach and facilitation for women applicants in all districts.

1.5. Growth of Young Entrepreneurs

a) *Knowledge Centres*: Entrepreneurship Knowledge Cells have been set up at partner institutes in every district including government colleges. Under the Startup Policy, these cells will be facilitated to continue providing easier access of knowledge support, handholding and guidance with assignment of Master Trainers and other experts in each cell. The

cells will cater to the needs of local entrepreneurs and students by providing the required trainings. The principal aim is to develop entrepreneurial flair in students, to make students understand entrepreneurial attitude and entrepreneurial skills and to provide a platform which gives number of outreach and awareness opportunities. If required, financial aid will be provided for setting up more knowledge cells in colleges and schools.

b) *Entrepreneurship Curriculum*: Introducing entrepreneurial courses in school curriculum will be a transformative step towards equipping students with valuable skills and mindsets necessary for the future. The Government will strive to introduce entrepreneurship studies in curriculums and also as extra-curriculum activities in the schools in collaboration with other relevant departments and boards. Such courses will empower students to explore their passions, develop innovative ideas, and cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset from an early age.

c) *Supporting Student Entrepreneurs*: In addition to creating the Knowledge Cells in schools and colleges, student entrepreneurs will be supported through programmes that will include Business Plan Workshops, Faculty Awareness Sessions, Bootcamps, Entrepreneurship Programs, Entrepreneurship or Innovation classes, lectures, Meet-and-Greets and any other program focused on entrepreneurship development.

1.6. Entrepreneurial Growth in the Social Innovation Landscape

The Policy envisages to induce entrepreneurial growth in the social innovation landscape by supporting Startups that contribute to measurable public welfare outcomes ("Public-Welfare Startups"). Public-Welfare Startups shall receive priority access (and where applicable, dedicated preference/earmarking) in the selection of beneficiaries under State Startup support programmes, provided they directly address public-interest challenges in areas such as healthcare, nutrition, education and skilling, social protection, financial inclusion, livelihood enhancement, sanitation and waste management, circular economy, clean energy,

climate adaptation and disaster resilience, accessibility for persons with disabilities, women/child safety, and citizen-centric governance and service delivery.

Eligibility criterion: The Government, through MSUM, will notify and publish on the State Startup Portal a clear criterion defining "Public-Welfare Startups", including indicative inclusions/exclusions and assessment parameters (e.g., target beneficiary groups, measurable social outcomes, and avoidance of material adverse social/environmental impacts). This criterion shall be applied uniformly across State Startup support instruments.

Special incentives and support instruments: The applicable MSUM programmes/schemes shall be deemed eligible instruments under this Policy for the purpose of supporting Public-Welfare Startups.

1.7. Mentorship Support

A structured Mentorship Programme will be instituted under the Mizoram Startup Mission (MSUM) to provide targeted handholding to Startups and aspiring entrepreneurs on business strategy, product-market fit, compliance, finance and investment readiness, branding and marketing, market access, export-readiness, and sector-specific technical guidance. Mentors may be engaged on a pro bono basis or on an honorarium basis, as decided by MSUM from time to time, and High Net-worth Individuals (HNIs) and accomplished professionals will be encouraged to contribute time, knowledge, networks and expertise to early-stage ventures.

State Mentor Network and MAARG registration: MSUM will empanel a State Mentor Network comprising mentors from industry, corporates/MSMEs, investors, higher educational and research institutions, government organisations, and domain specialists, and will ensure that empanelled mentors are registered on the Startup India

MAARG (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience and Growth) Portal for the purpose of programme implementation and evaluation.

Mentor–Startup connect through State-supported incubator mechanism: Startups shall be connected with registered mentors through an online and/or offline State-supported incubator mechanism, including the Mizoram Startup Hub and other partnered incubators/acceleration centres approved or supported under the State ecosystem framework. Mentorship may be delivered in physical mode or virtually; virtual connections shall be considered valid for programmatic purposes.

Targets: MSUM will endeavour to maintain a pool of at least 10 active mentors and facilitate structured mentor engagements with eligible Startups in Mizoram, with due emphasis on priority sectors and inclusive entrepreneurship.

2. Infrastructure Support

2.1. Access to Digital Infrastructure

a) Startup Portal:

A State Startup Portal will be created to provide information on the State Startup Policy, online startup registration and details of all state level approvals and clearances required for registering and operating a startup in the State. Details of Departments providing institutional support to startups will also be indicated. In addition to providing services, the portal will also document all marketing and outreach programmes including events, webinars, mentorship sessions etc. undertaken for the promotion of startups.

The State Startup Portal will be equipped with Cloud Infrastructure for Data Security and Storage. It will be linked to Startup India Hub through API integration, and the option to login through Startup India Portal shall be visible on State login pages. The Portal will be designed for accessibility of all pages of the website in local/official language. All

information hosted on the Startup portal would be easily accessible to Persons with Disabilities (PwD) based on the Accessible Website Design Principles championed through the Accessibility India Campaign.

b) *Startup Registration:*

The State Startup Portal will provide a mechanism for online registration of startups and ecosystem enablers operating within Mizoram with real-time application tracking feature. Since the Policy initiatives cover enterprising individuals within a wide range of spectrum, with programmes applicable to them in various degrees, registration platform will be provided under various categories – students, women entrepreneurs, innovators, aspiring startups and startups. The registration will be integrated with the Registered on Bharat Startup Ecosystem Registry (BHASKAR). There will also be regular updation of the startup registry for easy information on their contact details and current status.

c) *Grievance Redressal Mechanism for Startups:*

A time-bound Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) will be instituted by the Government through the Mizoram Startup Mission to enable Startups, aspiring startups, incubators, mentors and ecosystem enablers to register and resolve grievances relating to Policy implementation, scheme administration, portal issues, inter-departmental facilitation, and service-delivery gaps. The GRM will be enabled through the State Startup Portal and a dedicated helpline/email operated by MSUM, with end-to-end ticketing, acknowledgement and resolution tracking.

2.2. Access to Physical Infrastructure

a) *Incubation facilitation:*

Incubation and acceleration support are critical enablers for a vibrant startup ecosystem. The Government, through the Mizoram Startup Mission (MSUM), will strengthen and expand access to physical incubation and acceleration infrastructure across Mizoram, including through State-supported incubators, accelerators and co-working

facilities, and through partnerships with higher educational institutions (HEIs), industry bodies and private ecosystem enablers.

(i) *State-supported incubator / accelerator* – For the purposes of this Policy, a "**State-supported incubator / accelerator**" means any incubator/accelerator that receives support from the Government/MSUM in the form of (inter alia) subsidised incubation seats, grant support, service-payment support, equipment/lab support, programme support, or other notified facilitation measures, supported through an appropriate administrative instrument (Government Order/Office Order/MoU/contract) and recorded by MSUM.

(ii) Sector-responsive incubation and upgradation – MSUM will prioritise the establishment of new incubation facilities and/or the upgradation of existing incubators to provide sector-responsive, stage-appropriate support infrastructure for startups in Mizoram's notified priority areas. Such support may include, as relevant to the sector and the applicable national/state evaluation framework, prototyping and testing facilities, pilot and demonstration arrangements, shared service centres, domain labs, market access enablement, digital platforms, and service-delivery enablement infrastructure. The specific focus areas (e.g., manufacturing/hardware, agri and allied, food processing, tourism and creative economy, IT/ITeS, green/clean solutions, health/education innovations, and other emerging sectors) and the nature of incubation upgradation will be periodically identified and updated by MSUM, in consultation with stakeholder departments, academia and industry, so as to ensure measurable outcomes aligned to evolving ecosystem needs and future ranking/evaluation frameworks.

(iii) *State Startup Portal listing and State point of contact* – MSUM will maintain and regularly update on the State Startup Portal a

comprehensive list of incubators/accelerators with contact details and the designated State point of contact

(iv) *Beneficiary tracking and documentary records* – To ensure transparency, accountability and evidence-based reporting, MSUM and all State-supported incubators/accelerators will maintain auditable records including:

- list of startups onboarded by each incubator/accelerator;
- list of startups receiving specific types of support (incubation/acceleration/programme-wise);
- details of support provided (e.g., technical assistance, workspace, labs/testing zones, trainings, mentorship, funding facilitation);
- proof of release of funds, where any fiscal support is routed through/incurred for the incubator/accelerator;
- acknowledgement letters/incubation agreements (or equivalent) certifying support provided; and
- acceleration programme-wise list of unique startups enrolled and supported, including programme details and date

(v) *Partnership and subsidised incubation* – Subsidised incubation provided through private incubators, as well as incubation support provided through incubators outside the State (where subsidised by the Government/MSUM for Mizoram-based startups), will also be enabled through MSUM-approved mechanisms and appropriate documentation, subject to guidelines notified from time to time

b) Mizoram Startup Hub:

The Mizoram Startup Hub, operating under MSUM, is to function as the State's nodal Startup Hub and incubation coordination centre, serving as the primary physical platform for entrepreneurial activities, training, incubation, acceleration facilitation, networking and startup support services in Mizoram. The Mizoram Startup Hub will –

- provide plug-and-play workspaces and basic startup support facilities for incubatees;
- coordinate onboarding into incubation/acceleration programmes implemented by MSUM and partner incubators;
- facilitate mentorship, expert clinics, and capacity-building sessions through MSUM's mentor network and partner institutions;
- act as the central helpdesk for referrals to State-supported incubators/accelerators and relevant ecosystem enablers; and
- support the establishment and strengthening of incubation facilities within HEIs and technical institutions through guidance, standard operating processes and facilitation support.

Existing incubation centres within Mizoram are to be partnered for mentoring, networking and specialised support (including sector-specific support). Educational and technical institutes in Mizoram are to be encouraged and guided to set up incubators within their premises, including through a phased strengthening plan for labs/ maker-spaces/ prototyping/ testing facilities wherever feasible.

3. Funding & Investment Support

Access to funding is a critical factor for the success of any startup. The government will introduce various funding schemes and incentives to support startups, and encourage angel investors and venture capitalists to invest in startups in Mizoram. The government will notify the detailed Funding Schemes Guidelines under Mizoram Startup Mission for availing these funding support. The following funding and investment support is subjected to availability of funds and may be reviewed from time to time.

3.1. Seed Grant

a) **Ideation/ Entry stage Grant:** "Mizoram Kailawn" is the branding for the business plan contest, a multi-stakeholder initiative with the objective of facilitating a state-wide societal culture that accepts and appreciates entrepreneurs, making it easier for promising potential entrepreneurs to

gain institutional support, community recognition and encouragement from family in their journey towards entrepreneurial success. The overarching objective of this initiative, besides financial assistance to turn ideas into action, is to spread awareness on entrepreneurship among the masses in general and to promote it among the youth in particular. The highlight of the *Mizoram Kailawn - Business Plan Contest* will be outreach roadshow to all districts and a residential bootcamp programme which will hone the skills and ideas of the contestants.

b) **Traction Stage:** In order to promote self-reliance and tap the entrepreneurial potential of the State and to facilitate generation of employment through startups, the Startup Grant or "Mizoram Rahbi" initiative will provide a "stepping stone" for early-traction stage entrepreneurs through grant of micro capital. This assistance will be administered through a fair process to assist sincere enterprises that will potentially in turn contribute to the socio-economic development of the State. The cascading effect of forward and backward linkages of these ventures is also expected to generate significant direct and indirect employment. The initiative goes further by putting in place a mechanism for monitoring the progress of the ventures funded under it, providing institutional and knowledge-based support and scrutinizing whether the fund granted is being utilized properly.

3.2. Accelerator Programme - Mizoram Startup Ignition Fund

The startup ignition fund is established to support DPIIT-recognized startups in the early and growth stages of their journey. The fund incorporates a mix of financial instruments, including equity, convertible debentures, and non-convertible debentures, with terms tailored based on the valuation of the business. This initiative is designed to accelerate and provide financial backing to scalable and viable technology-driven and innovative startups, addressing financial bottlenecks that hinder their progress. The fund aims to empower startups to achieve their business objectives, meet industry standards, and compete effectively, particularly

in high-growth sectors of the economy. It will be used as an Accelerator Fund that will be for a period of 6 to 9 months.

3.3. Venture Funding

Venture capital funding is crucial for startups primarily because it provides the financial resources necessary to fuel growth and achieve their business objectives. The Venture Capital Fund shall be in the form of equity investment. Government of Mizoram shall create its own Investment Fund, namely Mizoram Venture Capital Fund through the Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) route which is under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). This shall be a state specific investment fund to cater to the specific needs of Mizo startups and to enable them to avail large investment funds which is crucial for them for product development, scaling of operations, market expansion and enhancement of technology. The startups funded through this shall become an important tool for successful implementation of this Scheme as startups funded under the agriculture, agri-tech and other sectors shall become the aggregators or the service providers for the Progress Partners. This component shall be implemented by the Nodal Department i.e. Planning & Programme Implementation Department through its independent Society - Mizoram Startup Mission.

3.4. Fundraising Engagements

Whether it's through traditional banks, venture capital firms, angel investors, or crowdfunding platforms, financial institutions offer funding options that enable startups to finance their operations, develop innovative products, scale their businesses, and enter new markets. Organizing networking opportunities between financial institutions and startups holds immense importance in fostering a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem. Through these interactions, financial institutions can gain insights into emerging market trends, disruptive technologies, and promising investment opportunities. At the same time, for startups

building relationships with these institutions opens doors to vital funding opportunities.

Investor or Investment Meets are highly significant for startups as they offer a platform where entrepreneurs can showcase their ideas and attract potential investors. Investor meets would be organized to bring together a diverse range of stakeholders, including investors, industry experts and entrepreneurs in order to facilitate networking opportunities and establishing valuable connections. Startups will gain exposure and visibility within the industry, enhancing their credibility and reputation. Investor Meets will also provide an avenue for startups to learn from experienced professionals through panel discussions, workshops, and keynote speeches.

4. Promotion and Market Access

In order to promote the State as a hub for entrepreneurship and innovation, the Policy advocates the creation of a strong brand identity, media outreach, and the use of digital marketing tools. Access to market is also a critical factor in the success of startups, as it provides startups with the opportunity to reach their target customers and grow their businesses. The Government will take the following initiatives for promoting startups and facilitating market access to startups:

4.1. Regulatory Reforms and Ease of Doing Business

Reforms to produce business-friendly regulatory frameworks will be strengthened in cooperation with relevant State departments for single window clearance, ease of doing business, and facilitation for filings such as intellectual property applications. MSUM shall coordinate with relevant departments to identify and document startup-facing regulatory bottlenecks and facilitate periodic corrective measures, including citizen/startup feedback and response.

4.2. Relaxation of Public Procurement Norms

In order to widen the avenue of participation of startups in public procurement, all DPIIT-recognized startups shall be exempt from the criteria of prior experience, prior turnover, and submission of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Bid Security where the recognized startup is a manufacturer or service provider, in accordance with the provisions of the General Financial Rules (GFR), 2017 (as amended from time to time), and subject to adoption by the State Government.

a) *Government Order / Notification:* The competent authority shall issue a Government Order/Notification operationalising the above relaxations for State Government Departments and PSUs, including the conditions, eligible categories of procurement, and standard tender clauses/templates.

b) *Departmental implementation:* All Departments/PSUs shall be required to incorporate the notified startup relaxations in eligible tenders/RFPs and designate a Departmental Nodal Officer for startup procurement facilitation, who shall coordinate with MSUM.

c) *State-level documentation and tracking:* MSUM shall maintain, in the public domain to the extent feasible, and otherwise as an official record, a consolidated Register of Startup-Enabled Tenders/RFPs capturing: tender/RFP title, department/PSU, date, whether relaxations were applied, link/reference number, and status/outcome.

4.3. Procurement through GeM Startup Runway

Startup India has enabled DPIIT-recognized startups to register and sell products/services directly to Government through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) including the Startup Runway. All Departments and PSUs of the State shall be encouraged to procure goods and services from startups through GeM Startup Runway wherever possible. MSUM, in collaboration with GeM/concerned agencies, will organise periodic orientation sessions for (i) startups to onboard and list offerings on GeM,

and (ii) procurement officials to utilise GeM for sourcing from startups, including the Startup Runway provisions.

4.4. Exhibitions & Showcase Opportunities

The Government will help connect startups with customers and clients by promoting products and services and providing opportunities to showcase offerings at events and exhibitions, including State-level startup expos, participation in national/regional trade fairs, sectoral exhibitions, and buyer–seller meets.

4.5. Networking and Community Building

A strong community of entrepreneurs, investors, and mentors is essential for the success of the startup ecosystem. Regular networking events, meetups, and conferences can bring the entrepreneurship community together, create opportunities for collaboration and mentorship, and help startups connect with potential customers and investors. The following means will be used for creating an energetic entrepreneurial ecosystem:-

a) *Hosting events and workshops*: Hosting events and workshops for startups will provide a platform for knowledge sharing, skill development, and networking to bring together entrepreneurs, investors, and support organizations. These events can include networking sessions, pitch competitions, and educational workshops to provide opportunities for networking and community building.

b) *Supporting entrepreneurship groups and organizations*: Entrepreneurship networks, groups and organizations provide a platform for entrepreneurs to connect with each other, share resources and build relationships. These may include established organizations like the Chamber of Commerce, Confederation of Indian Industry, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry etc. or local associations of entrepreneurs and startups. The Government will work with and support these entities and build online communities such as discussion forums and

social media groups in order to create a supportive community of like-minded entrepreneurs.

c) *Encouraging collaboration and partnerships*: The Government will continually encourage collaboration and partnerships between startups, investors, the government and support organizations to create a win-win situation where all parties involved can benefit and drive collective success.

d) *Business-to-Business Events*: By building partnerships with established companies through B2B Events, the Government will help startups to gain access to new markets and reach a wider audience.

5. Capacity Building of Ecosystem Enablers

Capacity building of ecosystem enablers – namely Government officials, incubator managers and teams, mentors, investors, accelerators, banks and financial institutions, corporates, and support organisations – shall be undertaken as a structured and measurable intervention of the Government, coordinated by the Mizoram Startup Mission (MSUM). The capacity building interventions under this section shall be designed to (i) strengthen the ability of public systems to engage with startups, (ii) professionalise and upgrade incubation support in the State, and (iii) expand and sensitise the pool of private and community ecosystem enablers.

a) *Sensitization Workshops for State Officials*: Sensitization workshops will aim to raise awareness among state officials about the importance of entrepreneurship and its potential for economic growth. MSUM will organise, support, or facilitate sensitization workshops/programmes for officials of State Government Departments on the Startup ecosystem of India, including sectoral opportunities relevant to Mizoram and Department-specific innovation needs. Each such workshop will, as far as practicable, be conducted for a minimum duration of four hours, and will

include an interactive session between participating Departments and Startups. The workshop agenda will cover topics such as:

i. Policy and regulations related to the Startup ecosystem in India;
ii. Startup India session on benefits and recognition;
iii. Role of State Government to encourage entrepreneurship;
iv. National and global best practices;
v. Innovative solutions for Department-specific problems.

b) *Support to Incubators and Accelerators*: Incubators and accelerators play a crucial role for startups in not only enhancing the chances of their success nurturing but also helping them scale up their businesses. Therefore, MSUM will organise or support capacity development workshops/ certification courses for incubator leadership and core staff. In addition to partnering with incubators and accelerators, it is within the scope of this Policy to provide financial and institutional support to these organizations as per requirement and for the benefit of startups.

c) *Acclimatization Events to Normalize Entrepreneurship among the Community*: Acclimatization events will be designed to familiarize the community with entrepreneurship and its benefits. These events will showcase success stories, share experiences, and provide a platform for aspiring entrepreneurs to interact with established ones. By normalizing entrepreneurship, these events will inspire individuals to consider it as a viable career path, fostering a culture of innovation and measured risk-taking within the community.

d) *Creating a cadre of Ambassadors for promoting entrepreneurship*: Ambassadors for entrepreneurship will act as champions and advocates for fostering an entrepreneurial culture. They will play a pivotal role in promoting entrepreneurship through speaking engagements, mentoring aspiring entrepreneurs, and facilitating networking opportunities.

6. Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship

In order for the people of Mizoram to make the most out of its small, terrain-constrained economy, it is crucial to create high-value jobs and strengthen innovation-led entrepreneurship that can generate scalable enterprises and sustainable livelihoods.

6.1. Innovation Facilitation

The Government will strengthen innovation-centric facilities such as the Innovation Facilitation Centre under the Directorate of Science & Technology etc. and facilitate the setting up of new facilities in partnership with relevant agencies, academic institutions, incubators and the private sector.

a) *IPR Facilitation and fast-tracking*: The Government, through MSUM and DST, will put in place an IPR facilitation mechanism to support startups and aspiring startups in intellectual property protection including patents, trademarks, copyrights and design registrations. This support will include facilitation services (such as guidance, documentation support, and access to empanelled facilitators) and may include financial support/reimbursement ceilings as notified by MSUM from time to time through scheme guidelines/office orders.

b) *Patent Filing Cost Reimbursement*: 100% reimbursement of cost of filing and prosecution of patent application will be provided to the incubated start-up companies subject to a limit of Rs. 1,00,000/- per Indian patent awarded and up to Rs. 2,00,000/- for Foreign patent.

c) *Quality Certification Reimbursement*: The fee payable for obtaining BIS /ISO /CMMI /FSSAI /AGMARK /HALLMAPK /SILK MARK /ZED Certification etc. by eligible startups will be subsidized and one-time reimbursement will be provided for up to 100% of cost of certification, subject to a limit of Rs. 1,00,000/- per startup.

6.2. R&D and Marketing Support Fund for Startups

The R&D Support Program will foster innovation and accelerate development of new technologies, products, and services by providing financial and strategic support to startups and aspiring startups, incubators, and research institutions. The program will enable proof-of-concept development, prototyping, testing, product improvement, and market validation, and will encourage collaboration across startups, academia and industry. R&D support under this Policy will prioritise startups working in the State's notified priority sectors and other emerging sectors as notified by MSUM from time to time, to ensure that public support translates into measurable sectoral outcomes and job creation.

6.3. Academic Research Funding

Provision will be made for funding up to Rs.10.00 lakh for conducting research in selected potential and high growth sectors in collaboration with technical/educational/research institutes or other reliable agencies. The objective is to produce systematic enquiry into the dynamics of the State's market economy, consumer behavior, livelihood and industry potential etc. that could act as the basis for precision government intervention or guide to entrepreneurs and investors looking for venture avenues.

6.4. Entrepreneurship Education and Training

To encourage entrepreneurship and build a strong pipeline of talented entrepreneurs, it is important to provide education and training to students and small businesses. Furthermore, as evidenced from the GETT research conducted in Mizoram, it is crucial to foster entrepreneurship at an early age. Therefore, the Startup Policy will facilitate entrepreneurship education and provide entrepreneurial training based on the understanding that –

- Entrepreneurship is a vital tool that facilitates inclusive growth of society;
- Entrepreneurship education, training & counseling can hasten the emergence of progressive entrepreneurs;
- Entrepreneurship encourages youth to seek innovations & challenges thus leading to optimal utilization of the State's demographic dividend, resources & wealth creation.

The following initiative will be taken up under this pillar:-

a) *Entrepreneurship Manual*: The Government will support the publication of an Entrepreneur's Manual in the local language (Mizo) tò ensure that a high standard of guidance and training can be consistently provided across the State. The Manual will be disseminated at events organised under MSUM and will be uploaded online for free download. It will cover foundational tenets including basic concepts in entrepreneurship, simple market research techniques, accounting and financial management strategies, decision making, operations, business law, and preparation of business plans.

b) *Training Programmes*: The Startup Hub will serve as the primary knowledge centre which will provide training and professional development opportunities. Entrepreneurial training will encompass various aspects, including business fundamentals, ideation and innovation, market research, financial literacy, risk management, networking, leadership, resilience, ethical practices, and practical experiences. The purpose of these training programmes will be to equip individuals with the skills, knowledge, and mindset needed to succeed as entrepreneurs. The government will also partner with universities and colleges to offer entrepreneurship courses and workshops, and provide training and mentorship to aspiring entrepreneurs.

c) *Master Trainers:* The Government intends to establish a cadre of certified entrepreneurship master trainers by identifying and equipping experienced individuals with the expertise and knowledge needed to effectively deliver

entrepreneurship training programs. These trainers will serve as catalysts for inspiring and educating aspiring entrepreneurs, equipping them with the skills and mindset necessary to navigate the world of startups.

7. Circular Economy & Sustainable Future

The development of ecological sustainability is becoming increasingly important in the startup ecosystem as businesses are realizing the impact that their operations can have on the environment. The Government will support the development of ecological sustainability in the startup ecosystem through the following practices:-

a) *Promoting sustainable business practices*: Sustainable practices help businesses minimize their environmental footprint, conserve resources, and reduce waste and pollution. This includes implementing energy-efficient measures, utilizing renewable resources, embracing circular economy principles, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainable practices also involve promoting social responsibility, such as fair labor practices, ethical sourcing, and community engagement. Promoting sustainable business practices is a shared responsibility that requires collaboration among businesses, governments, and consumers to drive positive change and create a more sustainable future. Therefore, the Government will give special consideration under the various programmes, grants and incentives provided in this Policy to "**Sustainability-focused startups**" which are startups engaged in the following:-

i. Startups engaged in the development of eco-friendly products and services.
ii. Startups working on sectors focused on renewable energy, sustainability, and climate change.
iii. Startups with considerable rural impact.
iv. Startups enabling a circular economy.
v. Research and development of sustainable technologies.

b) *Partnering with organizations focused on sustainability*: The Government will partner with organizations focused on sustainability, such as environmental non-profits and sustainability-focused investors, to promote the development of sustainable businesses. This will include organizations that can provide startups with access to environmentally-friendly facilities and infrastructure, such as green buildings and renewable energy sources, to help reduce their environmental impact.

IX. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. No automatic entitlement

No right or claim for any assistance under this Policy will be deemed to have been conferred merely on the basis of any provision contained herein.

2. Operationalisation

Implementation of provisions relating to grants, facilities, training, incubation support, procurement facilitation and allied measures will be subject to the issue of detailed scheme guidelines/administrative instructions and statutory notifications, wherever necessary, by the concerned Administrative Department(s) and on the availability of funds.

3. Interpretation and resolution

Any question relating to the interpretation of any provision of this Policy, or any doubt arising in implementation, will be referred to the Planning & Programme Implementation Department through the Mizoram Startup Mission (MSUM). MSUM will examine the matter and place it before the MSUM Executive Committee and/or Governing Board, as applicable. The decision issued in this regard will guide implementation, without prejudice to remedies available under applicable law.

4. Non-duplication and convergence

Beneficiaries will disclose support received from any Central/State Government scheme or agency for the same purpose. Double financing for the same activity/expenditure head will not be permitted, except where specifically allowed as top-up/matching support under scheme guidelines.

5. **Cessation of benefits and recovery in case of misuse**

Assistance under this Policy will be discontinued if a beneficiary ceases to meet eligibility criteria, or violates scheme guidelines/conditions. In cases of misrepresentation, suppression of material facts, diversion or misuse of funds, or non-compliance with prescribed conditions, the Government will be entitled to withdraw support and recover the assistance along with applicable interest/penalty as per scheme guidelines and applicable rules.

6. **Confidentiality and data use**

Information submitted by applicants will be used for evaluation, monitoring, audit and reporting purposes. MSUM will take reasonable measures to protect confidential business information, subject to statutory requirements, audit needs, and lawful disclosure obligations.

7. **Force majeure and administrative exigency**

Implementation may be modified, deferred or re-prioritised due to force majeure or administrative exigency, with reasons recorded and communicated appropriately.

8. **Power to amend**

The Government of Mizoram may, at any time, amend, modify or rescind any provision of this Policy and/or issue clarifications for effective implementation.

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