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Government of Mizoram



Lal Thanhawla

Chief Minister of Mizoram

Transforming Mizoram Towards Prosperity Through NEDP

(New Economic Development Policy)





ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

UNDER NEDP

- ▶ ENTREPRENEURSHIP KNOWLEDGE CENTRE
- ▶ MICRO START UP CAPITAL COMPETITION
- ▶ BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION AND E –SUMMIT

- ▶ PUBLICATION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP MANUAL
- ▶ ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARENESS PROGRAMMES
- ▶ ENTREPRENEURSHIP & SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
- ▶ STUDY TOUR/EXPOSURE TRIPS
- ▶ MASTER TRAINERS
- ▶ ENTREPRENEURS AWARDS
- ▶ NEED BASE ASSISTANCES
- ▶ WORKSHOPS

NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Key Growth Drivers / Interlinkages / Public Value

Entrepreneurship Development Scheme

HIMNA Project

Innovation
Facility

Composite Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme
Composite Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme

Infrastructure

NEDP

Development

Food & Drug Safety

Operational & Maintenance Framework

Reforms in Public Financial Management

Strengthening Legal Metrology

Wider Public Administrative Reforms

Health Infrastructure/Equipment

Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation

CM Rural Housing Scheme

Skills Development Policy

Land Reforms

Development of Indigenous
Technological Innovation in Mizoram

Home Stay Scheme

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PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION DEPARTMENT**

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Our Publications and Initiatives



CONNECTING THOUGHT LEADERS

Founded in 2005, eGov magazine is published in both
print and online formats. Innovative use of ICT in
Governance is at the heart of our all eGov initiatives.



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OF THE MONTH

VISIT

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Urban Development Summit

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> MAGAZINE

It compiles ICT-related advancements being introduced, exercised by various government organisations via eGovernance module.

> NEWS

Dealing with various key developments and policy-related decisions that define Indian governance style at large, this section throws light on the most important aspects.

> WEBSITE

With a reach of sixty lakhs, the website is pushing the Digital India campaign of the Government of India. It highlights various dimensions of anything and everything related to the changing trends of governance in India.

> EVENT REPORTS

This segment narrates the discussions and deliberations of participants at the occasional conferences held nationally or internationally.

> CASE STUDIES

It deals with in-depth detail of various projects being implemented in any part of the country, worth inspiring others in providing solutions.

> VIDEOS

The youtube channel 'EletsTV' deals with live recorded versions of tech-experts and key decision makers who participate in key debates or discussion of Elets knowledge conferences.

> INTERVIEWS

This section highlights various stakeholders, bureaucrats and policy makers influencing governance in the country.

Mizoram Witnessing A New Dawn in India's East

Overcoming years of political turmoil, Mizoram, one of the seven sister States of India is steadily working to ensure development in all quarters. Under the leadership of Lal Thanhawla, the Mizoram Chief Minister, there is a strong push to bring development in the real manner.

Paving the way for a comprehensive change in the administrative system is New Economic Development Policy. It's being embraced as a comprehensive growth strategy for entire Mizoram.

Our latest issue of eGov magazine is an endeavour to understand and observe how the State machinery is bringing this transformation.

Our cover story 'NEDP Bringing New Dawn In Mizoram's Development' underlines how the State government is trying to leverage its latent resources and untapped potential, to ensure holistic development and transform the meaning of being in the northeastern state.

In Mizoram, the much-needed work in on to bring a sea change in the way priorities are placed in matters of economic development and governance to ensure that the State fully capitalises on the new opportunities placed before it.

In this light, 'Magnetic Mizoram Summit' is being organised in capital city of Aizawl to congregate investors and representatives of States, leaders from the corporate world, senior policymakers, heads of international institutions and academia from across India and abroad. The two-day extravaganza is aimed to help the State in achieving an inclusive and sustainable development by ensuring policy coherence and effective investment promotion.

This special issue of eGov features special articles by Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla, stating how the Mizoram's growth is being positively influenced through New Economic Development Policy. We also have articles by the State's Minister for Planning, Finance, Law and Judicial, and Taxation Lalswata; Vice Chairman, Mizoram State Planning Board, H Liansailova; Planning Secretary Dr Vanlalramsanga; Professor Lianzela, Retired Professor, Mizoram University, and Expert Member, Mizoram State Planning Board and Professor Vanlalchhawna, Finance Officer, Mizoram University, and Expert Member, Mizoram State Planning Board.

Also we have featured glimpses of Mizoram Economic Conclave 2018 held recently in Aizawl, Mizoram.

Offering a 360 degree views of the growth trajectory of Mizoram through various special articles, stories and interviews, we hope our latest endeavour would evoke an invaluable feedback of our esteemed readers.



रविगुप्त

DR RAVI GUPTA

Editor-in-Chief, egov magazine, and CEO,
Elets Technomedia Pvt Ltd

CONTENTS

APRIL 2018 | Volume 14 | Issue 06

elets

ei gov



➔ 10 | COVER STORY

NEDP BRINGING NEW DAWN IN MIZORAM'S DEVELOPMENT



07 LAL THANHAWLA
Chief Minister of Mizoram



16 DR C VANLALRAMSANGA

Planning Secretary,
Government of
Mizoram



18 PROF LIANZELA

Retired Professor,
Mizoram University, and
Expert Member Mizoram
State Planning Board



14 H LIANSILOVA

Vice Chairman, Mizoram
State Planning Board



19 PROF VANLALCHHAWNA

Finance Officer,
Mizoram University
and Expert Member
Mizoram State
Planning Board



08 LALSAWTA

Minister for Planning, Finance, Law
and Judicial, and Taxation,
Government of Mizoram



20 SUBHRANGSHU SANYAL

CEO- IIM Calcutta
Innovation Park



22 JOSEPH RALTE

Centre Director,
Mizoram Food
Processing
Research & Training
Centre (MFPRTC),
Seling, Aizawl



24 ISAK LALMUANPUIA CHUAUNGO

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Government of
Mizoram



27 CLALNUNSIAMI

Research Officer,
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Programme
Implementation
Department,
Government of
Mizoram



28 MARY LALRINCHHUNGI

Research Officer,
Planning and
Implementation
Department,
Government of
Mizoram

32 CHINGTHANMAWII GUTE

Senior Research
Officer, Planning
Department,
Government of
Mizoram

34 B LALRINHLUA

Deputy Director,
Directorate of
Economics and
Statistics
Government of
Mizoram

36 DR LALRINCHHANA

Deputy Adviser-cum-
Deputy Secretary
Planning & Programme
Implementation
Department,
Government of
Mizoram

38 CAPTAIN RAHUL BALI

Managing Director
Innovations India

40 ZORAMMAWII RALTE

Managing Partner,
Mizoram
Consultancy Group



Lal Thanhawla

Chief Minister of Mizoram

Mizoram Scripting **Growth** Story Through **NEDP**

Mizoram, the northeastern State of India, is today one of the fastest developing States. It is nothing less than amazing to mention that so many development projects are being carried out in this State which witnessed a lot of political turmoil in last two decades, observes **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

Despite being a late starter on the growth trajectory, Mizoram is registering development on various fronts, most especially with regard to certain parameters, courtesy the New Economic Development Policy (NEDP).

In spite of all the inherent disadvantages that the State experiences owing to its remoteness and geographical isolation, Mizoram has become one of the best performing small States in the country in terms of infrastructure development and good governance, says Lal Thanhawla, Chief Minister of Mizoram.

However, despite the best efforts of the State Government through its various programmes including the flagship New Land Use Policy, a lot more needs to be done. It is needed to bring the State at par with the rest of the country.

Today, the global, regional as well as national scenarios have changed. Erstwhile economic powerhouses have now been replaced with new ones, with


“The remote geographical location of the State in the far eastern corner of the country, which was once an impediment, now has the potential to be a boon with the right kind of development initiatives.”

Asia now becoming the centre of action and India being one of the main actors and with the ‘Look East’ and ‘Act East’ policies becoming one of the most important scripts in this saga of economic growth.

Mizoram, being very much part and parcel of this new narrative, has a key role to play in this new era. The remote

geographical location of the State in the far eastern corner of the country which was once an impediment now has the potential to become a boon with the right kind of development initiatives.

Various factors such as a highly literate population, peaceful atmosphere and physical proximity to Bangladesh and Myanmar offer great opportunities to the State.

In recognition of these potentials and in realising the need to have a crucial paradigm shift in economic policy to fully exploit these potentials, the Government of Mizoram has decided to introduce this “New Economic Development Policy”. Its main objective is to bring about a sea change in the way priorities are placed in matters of economic development and governance so as to ensure that the State fully capitalises on the new opportunities placed before it, with the end goal being to attain a robust and self-sustaining economy in the long-run. Though immediate benefits are ideal, the main purpose of this policy is focused on the long-term advantages for one and all in the State. 

**Lalsawta**

Minister for Planning, Finance, Law and Judicial, and Taxation, Government of Mizoram

The Mizoram Government is optimistic of our future because we have the most literate people, with high percentage of young population, who are ever eager to make Mizoram one of the most developed States in India.

High Literacy and Young Population Leading to Mizoram Fastpaced Development

Owing to various factors, historical as well as geographic, Mizoram, located in the far corner of the country, has been isolated for a long period and industrialisation and technological inventions that have changed many other states of the Country and brought them to prosperity, did not reach Mizoram, and we Mizos have been ensconced in our land like young caterpillars in the cocoon.

Globalisation and global market with all its paraphernalia have so suddenly caught us up in the latter part of the 20th century and the 21st century when we are yet so unprepared to compete with the most advanced economies of the world. Now we need to keep pace with the world economically in this competitive world.

Mizoram, geographically a landlocked State, being sandwiched between foreign countries, namely Bangladesh and Myanmar, with the international boundaries so porous for easy entrance of illegal aliens, in the far corner of the Northeast India, connected with only vehicular roads and infrequent air flights, has a serious transport bottleneck which unavoidably poses an almost insurmountable handicap for economic progress.

Though Mizoram has many disadvantages owing to its geographical location and no access to sea, Mizoram

has many natural advantages that other countries and States in India rarely have. It has the most comfortable climate all throughout the year unlike many European countries and Americas where winter snow poses a serious problem for two or more months during each year, nor is it intolerably hot as in most Indian States. Again, owing to the immense contribution of Christian missionaries, a very high percentage of the people are also literate and embrace Christianity.

The State's flagship programme of New Land Use Policy (NLUP) that has changed the method of cultivation and the eking out of livelihood for a large number of people, not only contributes to economic development of the people, but has actually helped in ameliorating the problem of environmental threats to a considerable level.

The New Economic Development Policy, which addresses the problem of unproductive farming practices, and finding ways to augment the income of the common people thus placing Mizoram in the economic boom map in India, will also be an effective instrument affectionately to be titled the Mizoram Economic Exodus which frees the Mizo people from poverty, subsistence economy, dependency and fear psychosis.

The juncture at which Mizoram finds itself has the unforeseen blessing in the

changed financial devolution from the Central Government of India to States, as recommended by the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC). With the major role of the erstwhile Planning Commission having been effectively transferred to the States, it is the States now which have the crucial responsibility in determining their priorities and focus areas in matters of economic development and governance to a considerable degree.

Therefore, this devolution for financing of development programme of Indian States has dramatically changed following the dismantling of Planning Commission in 2014 and the acceptance of the 14th Finance Commission (2014-2020) recommendation by the Central Government. Individual States are now increasingly responsible for their own development, welfare and prosperity.

Plan fund transfers such as normal central assistance (NCA), special plan assistance (SPA), additional central assistance (ACA) have now been discontinued. Centrally sponsored schemes and central major programmes have also been rationalised. Specific provisions for North Eastern States such as 10 per cent Gross Budgetary Support earmarked by Central Ministries/ Departments, Non -Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) under Ministry of Department of North East Region (DoNER) and North Eastern Council (NEC) have been more or less stagnant at the same levels for the past few years with relative share of allocation continuously declining. Meanwhile, the increase in the share of taxes under FFC award from 32 to 42 percent has, to some extent, compensated the States. The State is fortunate to get a separate transfer for revenue deficit grants as well. The Government will have to take this change as an opportunity to reorient its policy towards achieving stronger economic growth.

The new policy recognises that achieving transformation of economic conditions requires hard choices and a shared determination of the people of Mizoram.

Development opportunities for the North East States including Mizoram have been expected to have potentials to greatly expand with India's increased economic integration with South East Asian countries under Act East Policy. At the same time, policymaker/planners cannot overlook and ignore how climate change and environmental degradation pose a critical challenge for ensuring livelihood security of a large number of rural populations and threaten inclusive and sustainable development of the State. Moreover, in today's competitive world, government actions and public policy play a critical role in shaping the competitiveness of both the Government and businesses.


Given these perspectives and the paradigm shift in fiscal federalism in the Country under FFC, the States need to evolve a new development policy which is practical, holistic, inclusive and sustainable. The limited resources available have to be optimally and judiciously allocated to various sectors of the economy so as to bring maximum benefit to the people of Mizoram. To address these challenges, the Government is determined to bring about a strong and sustainable economy with robust public finances in an integrated manner. In this respect, the Mizoram State Planning Board under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla has developed a "New

Economic Development Policy – Comprehensive Growth Strategies for Mizoram" as the framework for economic policy and the strategic driving force of the State's economy.

The New Economic Development Policy aims at providing bold, practical and effective strategies to push economy to a high growth path by enhancing productivity, creating employment opportunities, improving public finances, improving business environment and improving public service delivery in a sustainable manner. It also lays out a dynamic vision for how we can collectively achieve a more developed, democratic, cohesive and inclusive economy and society over the medium term, in the context of sustained growth. The strategy sets out critical policy interventions for employment generation, empowerment of weaker sections, and inclusive growth and identifies where viable changes in the structure and character of production can generate a more inclusive and robust economy over the medium to long run.

The new policy recognises that achieving transformation of economic conditions requires hard choices and a shared determination of the people of Mizoram. The new policy combines growth strategies across various sectors into a coherent package for development, decent work and inclusive growth. They bring together the priorities that constitute the basic economic focus to forge ahead to promote a more inclusive and stronger economy.

The Mizoram Government is optimistic of our future because we have the most literate people, with high percentage of young population, who are ever eager to make Mizoram one of the most developed States in India.

(Views expressed in this article are of Lalsawta, Minister for Planning, Finance, Law and Judicial, and Taxation, Government of Mizoram) 



NEDP Bringing New Dawn In Mizoram's Development

Keeping perennial challenges and requirements of residents in mind and the unexplored potential of the State, the Mizoram Government is now working in a resolute manner to bring the much-needed change, guided by the New Economic Development Policy (NEDP).

NEDP is a comprehensive roadmap of progress and a strategy for Mizoram that has changed the way resources used to be allocated for development of the State.

Today, the economic growth in the State

has received a boost from the cumulative impact of various development schemes, projects and policy reforms under NEDP.

The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Mizoram has been continuously growing at a robust rate over the years. The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at constant prices (2011-12) approximately attained an amount of Rs. 13,655.34 crore in 2016-17 against the provisional estimates of Rs. 12,487.73 crore for 2015-16. It was a growth of about 9.35 per cent over the previous year. The GSDP at constant prices (2011-12) clocked 12 per cent average annual

The mountainous State of Mizoram, covered with verdant forests dotted by bamboo groves, teeming with vibrant wildlife, scenic cliffs and awe-inspiring waterfalls, is a place worth visiting. To leverage its latent potential, the Mizoram Government is ensuring holistic development to transform the meaning of being here, writes **Priyanka Sharma of Elets News Network (ENN).**

growth rate during the financial years 2012-13 to 2016-17. The projected growth rate for India as a whole has been placed at 6.75 per cent in 2016-17.

Services sector still dominates the economy and challenges ahead would include stabilising services sector-led growth through provision of appropriate policy including administrative reforms, putting in place appropriate regulatory environment and improving ease of doing business in the State.

NEDP at a Glance

The New Economic Development Policy, or NEDP is a comprehensive growth strategy for Mizoram. It has been implemented since 2016 to bring about a strong and sustainable economy with robust public finances in an integrated manner.

In this respect, the NEDP has been a strategic driving force of the State's economy. The State Government has already invested Rs 1,027 crore during 2016-2018, Rs 277 crore in 2016-17, and Rs 750 crore in 2017-18.

The Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (EDS) under NEDP being implemented through Mizoram Entrepreneurship Development Monitoring Committee (MEDMOC) has been quite a phenomenon in creating the spirit of entrepreneurship. It has helped in identifying emerging business opportunities and rightly emphasising the role of entrepreneurship for the rapid development of Mizoram Economy.

Mizoram is today one of the fastest growing States in the Country. It has been among the four high growth States with its economy continuously growing at high rate of over 8 per cent during 2013 to 2016. These four States have been Gujarat, Jharkhand, Mizoram and Tripura.

Driven by a clear vision, the NEDP has been prepared with proper guiding principles.

Under the NEDP, be it development scheme, project or programmes, all are



NEDP is being implemented vigorously by the Government. Care is being taken so that development initiatives under it are holistic and inclusive which will be accommodative of the culture, tradition and lifestyle of the Mizo people and be in conformity with the natural endowments of the land.

holistic and inclusive accommodative of the Mizos' culture, tradition and lifestyle and be in conformity with the natural endowments of the land.

The NEDP broadly consists of the following 8 broad Strategies –

- Strategy for reviving agriculture and allied sector
- Strategy for developing industry-manufacturing sector
- Strategy for infrastructure development
- Strategy for sustaining services sector led growth
- Reform in Public Financial Management
- Skill Development to reap demographic dividend
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy
- Strategy for Wider Public Administrative Reform

The Road Ahead

To achieve success in these fields, the existing policies and programmes implemented in Mizoram will be reviewed and future course of action will be chalked out.

This may involve doing away with existing practices and making hard



choices so that progress can reach the common people.

The policy will not comprise simply distributing fund to all departments; allocation of fund will be based on preparation of viable projects/programmes which will strengthen the economy, employ sectoral inter-linkages, are high impact economic activities, and which perpetuate a growth-friendly regulatory environment and improve the ease of doing business in the State.

NEDP is being implemented vigorously by the Government. Care is being taken so that development initiatives under it are holistic and inclusive which will be accommodative of the culture, tradition and lifestyle of the Mizo people and be in conformity with the natural endowments of the land.

Health Services

Directorate of Health Services (DHS) is concerned with provision of Community Health Services through its network of 12 Community Health Centres, 57 Rural

As per the Report of NITI Aayog and the World Bank Group “Health States, Progressive India”, Mizoram topped Health Index in the small States category, and as per the score it is ranked second among all States.

Primary Health Centres, 8 Urban Primary Health Centres, 372 sub-centres and 166 sub-centre clinics.

The full spectrum of promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services are provided to citizens of Mizoram even to the remotest village. Most of the vertical health programmes currently implemented through the National Health Mission (NHM) are through the DHS.

As per the Report of NITI Aayog and the World Bank Group “Health States, Progressive India” released on 9th February 2018, Mizoram topped Health Index in the small States category, and as per the score it is ranked second among all States.

Health in the Sustainable Development Era: Vision 2030

It is being observed that the post-2015 development agenda has put health at the forefront of development. Health is a key input for and outcome of development.

The India State-level Disease Burden initiative has indicated that malnutrition and tobacco are the top two risk factors driving the

most deaths and disability combined.

Malnutrition is a tremendous challenge especially for children aged under five.

Mizoram had the highest number of tobacco users in the country until 2017 when the findings of Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS-2) indicated that Mizoram is now in the No. 2 position, only lagging behind Tripura. The absolute figure for current tobacco use has also declined from 67.2 per cent to 58.7 per cent. This will have a tremendous impact on the prevalence of tobacco use related diseases and deaths.

Water Supply and Sanitation

Mission

To ensure all rural and urban households have access to and use safe drinking water and sanitation facilities on sustainable basis so as to bring about a healthy environment, prosperity and better quality of life.

Rural Water Supply

Rural drinking water supply are implemented mainly by providing piped

Mizoram is today one of the fastest growing States in the Country. It has been among the four high growth States with its economy continuously growing at high rate of over 8 per cent during 2013 to 2016.

water supply using gravity flow, pumping scheme, Rain Water Harvesting Scheme (RWHS), hand pump tube well, improvement of village spring source and impounding reservoir, etc.

Urban Water Supply

Mizoram is still on its way to achieve the National norms of Water Supply Level (70 litres per capita per day (lpcd)) in Urban Water Supply Programme.


There are one city and 22 towns in Mizoram. 10 towns have been brought under fully covered status (70 lpcd), 13 towns are still under partially covered (below 70 lpcd). There are four towns where water supply projects are under construction for achieving 70 lpcd and many more are expected to be sanctioned within a few year.

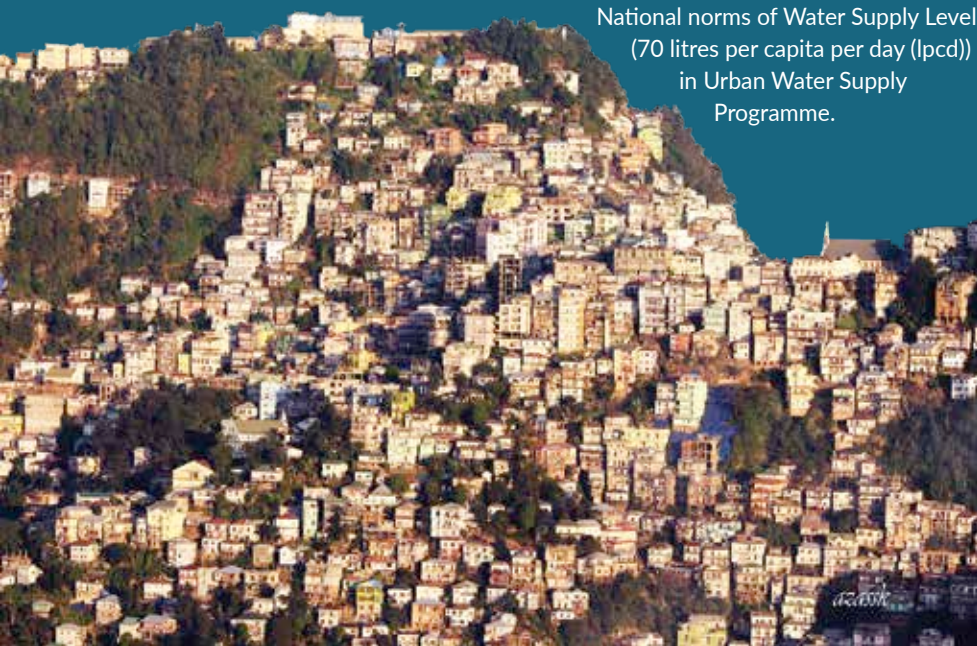
Road and Transport

In 1987, the Transport Department became a separate department after the bifurcation of Supply and Transport department when attaining the Statehood. The Road Transport Sector has grown significantly during the decades. Road Transport has deep linkages with the rest of the economy and a strong multiplier effect.

Passenger transport services are provided both by the State Road Transport Undertakings (MST) and private operators. Following liberalisation, the share of MST has declined with the entry of private operators to meet the over increasing passenger traffic demand.

The Department continues to render services to the public on transportation purposes such as transportation of passengers and goods to various destinations, and enforcement of Motor Vehicle Acts & Rules by way of collecting fees and fines to Motor Vehicles and issue of permits to vehicles depending on necessity by the State of Mizoram and issue of driving license to those persons having efficient driving skill, frame and amendment of the Motor Vehicle Acts & Rules in harmony with the overall growth of the country.

In rendering public services, the Transport Department also has high contribution to the State income by the revenue earned from MST passenger buses as well as from the collection of tax, fees and fines from motor vehicles, showcasing its vital role in the State economy. 





NLUP Helping Agriculture Sector Grow in Mizoram

The importance of agriculture in economic development is borne out by the fact that it is the primary sector of the economy, which provides the basic ingredients necessary for the existence of mankind. This is true in the case of Mizoram in which Agriculture and Allied Sector provides not only food and raw materials but also employment to a very large proportion of the population as majority of the population are still depending on these sectors.

The implementation of the New Land Use Policy (NLUP), the State Government's Flagship Programme, has initiated the transition from

subsistence oriented agriculture to a more market oriented agriculture in earnestness. The marginal farmers who have been barely eking out a living on subsistence agriculture have witnessed a rise in their standard of living by adopting market oriented agriculture, which is heartening.

Third party analysis of the success or otherwise of the NLUP is being undertaken by NABCONS/ NABARD, Synod Social Front and Mizoram University (MZU) separately. The preliminary findings of MZU have revealed that there has been a growth in the Agriculture & Allied Sector as well as the Industries Sector by 44.78 per cent. The NLUP has



H Liansailova

Vice Chairman
Mizoram State Planning Board

been appreciated by both foreign (UN Agencies, Japan International Cooperation Agency) and domestic (Tata Trust) agencies that have approached the State Government for collaboration in this field. As it is the mandate of the Government to heed the welfare and upliftment of the poor, the State Government would continue its efforts for progressing to a sustainable market economy.

The New Economic Development Policy (NEDP) entail a shift to policy interventions that aims at promoting transformation of subsistence agriculture to market oriented agriculture by following two-pronged approaches: (i) improving market orientation of smallholders at production level, and (ii) facilitation of market access and participation of small and marginal farmers in output markets.

Focusing only on either one may not be as effective in achieving the transformation. Agriculture & Allied Activities must not be delegated to a position of a mere subsistence source of livelihood for the poor villagers, but must be transformed towards Agri-Business with the application of the latest technologies.

Transformation of subsistence agriculture to market oriented agriculture is an indispensable pathway towards economic growth and development for an agriculture dependent economy like Mizoram. Sustainable household food security and welfare also require commercial transformation of subsistence agriculture. Commercial agricultural production is likely to result in welfare gains through the realisation



The New Economic Development Policy (NEDP) entail a shift to policy interventions that aims at promoting transformation of subsistence agriculture to market oriented agriculture.

of comparative advantages, economies of scale, and from dynamic technological, organisational and institutional change effects that arise from the flow of ideas due to exchange-based interactions. Moreover, commercialisation enhances the links between the input and output sides of agricultural markets. Enhancement in the production of crops would be targeted for selected crops using modern technology for a better market access and market oriented postharvest processing.

It has been found through various researches that agricultural workers are basically unskilled; they may not be skilled even in the art of profitable cultivation. Consequently, their supply is perfectly elastic and therefore whatever they earn is in the nature of transfer earnings. The employer often uses this position to his personal gain by contracting to less than what the market forces would have warranted otherwise. NEDP also aims at undertaking appropriate skill and entrepreneurship development initiatives for the benefit of agricultural laborers. [mizoram.gov.in](https://www.mizoram.gov.in/)

(Views expressed in this article are of H Liansailova, Vice Chairman, Mizoram State Planning Board)



NEDP

Creating Enabling Environment for High Growth in Mizoram



Dr C Vanlalramsanga

Planning Secretary, Government of Mizoram

The process of economic growth depends largely on the key growth sectors or high linkage sectors in the economy. The interlinkages of sectors are particularly important as policy impetus for the growth of a high linked sector can automatically impact the interlinked sectors through both forward and backward linkages and can improve the growth prospectus manifolds, writes Dr C Vanlalramsanga, Planning Secretary, Government of Mizoram.

New Economic Development Policy (NEDP) place identification of sectoral linkages as an essential component to formulate appropriate policies for boosting the key high linked sectors, as these in turn propel the growth in other sectors. The Government is devising

appropriate policies through New Economic Development Policy (NEDP) based on the requirements of these key sectors besides encouraging investments in these sectors which, in turn, will ensure a long run sustainable growth of the overall economy.

Based on their linkages and other economic considerations including factor endowment and structural changes in the economy, the following sectors has been identified by NEDP as potential key growth drivers of the State economy:


a) Agricultural & Allied Sector: Rice, Vegetables (annual crops with high and consistent demand in local, national and international markets - onion, spices, squash etc), fruits (high value fruits with high and consistent demand in local, national and international markets - banana, orange, grape, passion fruits etc), floriculture (high value flowers with high and consistent demand in local, national and international markets - anthurium, orchid etc), animal husbandry, dairy, fishery (with high and consistent demand in local market)

b) Industry-Manufacturing Sector: Forest based Industries (bamboo), handloom, handicrafts, agro based food processing

c) Infrastructure Development: Roads, Energy, Water Supply, ICT, Sanitation and Sewerage

d) Services Sector: Tourism and Hospitality, Sports and Recreation, Education, Health Care, ICT, Transport Services

The above identified potential key growth drivers of the State economy has been prioritised in proper sequence, and strategy for development and progress has been formulated in each key growth sectors with due regards to interlinkages among the sectors. It is expected to provide maximum linkages in the economy for propelling and fueling economic growth and development in the State. Appropriate policy reforms for creating enabling environment have also been addressed under policy agenda of NEDP.

The Government of Mizoram has invested Rs 250 crores in NEDP during the first year of implementation in 2016-17. And enhanced the investment to Rs 750 crores in the second year of implementation, and Rs 1,000 crores has been earmarked in BE 2018-19. 



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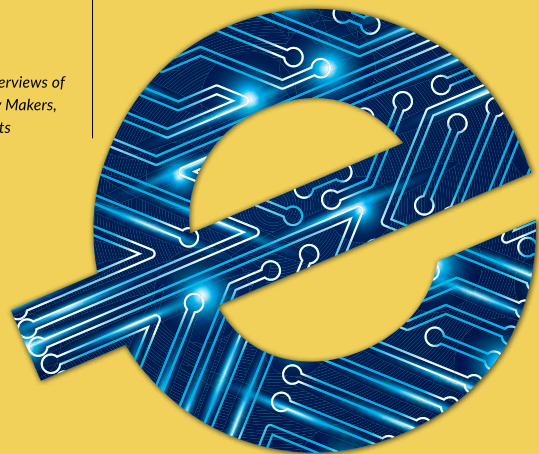
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NEDP Reviving Growth Model in Mizoram



Prof Lianzela


Retired Professor, Mizoram University, and Expert Member Mizoram State Planning Board

New Economic Development Policy (NEDP) is a comprehensive growth strategy for Mizoram. Though formulated to push the Mizoram economy to a higher growth trajectory and to transform it from sustenance to market economy, the policy also has national and international relevance. By addressing climate change, environmental issues and industrial development, it has immense relevance for global economy as well. NEDP's emphasis on sustainability, industry, innovation, infrastructural growth, inclusiveness and partnership to achieve the goals in development is testament that the policy embraces the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of UN. Skill Development, which is one of the thrust areas in the national arena is given due importance by NEDP showing the policy's commitment to help youth acquire industry and

economy relevant skills that will help them in securing a better livelihood. Apart from this, NEDP also focuses on generation of employment opportunities, innovation and invention, intellectual property rights, creation of shared/common assets and entrepreneurship development through promotion of zest for entrepreneurship, business acumen and innovative ideas amongst the youth. As such business plan competitions have been organised in coordination with IIM Calcutta Innovation Park to encourage and promote entrepreneurship. It is encouraging to see some of the winners have actually worked on their ideas and started a business with the startup provided through NEDP. The policy assists and motivates budding entrepreneurs who are determined and enthusiastic to build a start up so as to create a profitable venture that generates not only self employment

but employment opportunities for others.

The framers of NEDP are clear on where to begin and where the focus and thrust areas should be for the growth and development of the economy of Mizoram. NLUP-the flagship programme of the State has considerable achievements in various dimensions and one can see that the framers of NEDP are well aware of the strengths and weaknesses of NLUP. NEDP has been introduced and instituted to supplement and complement NLUP with the aim of facilitating further development and sustainable growth of various sectors in the desired direction.

NEDP is a relatively new policy. Therefore, it is not yet possible to comprehensively assess its achievements or failures. The availability of funds in NEDP increases the probability of its success. However, a good or well drafted policy with sufficient funding is not enough to ensure success, more important is its implementation. For this purpose, NEDP training and awareness programmes have been undertaken on a regular basis, and policy monitoring is being done in a better and more transparent manner. As much as government and political will is crucial for the success of a policy, so is also the cooperation and participation of the citizens. Therefore, the success of NEDP will depend on the efficiency with which it is being implemented as well as cooperation and commitment of the people to work towards change and a better future. A great start is no doubt important but what people remember and what will make a lasting impact is a glorious finish. 

(Views expressed in this article are of Prof Lianzela, Retired Professor, Mizoram University, and Expert Member Mizoram State Planning Board)



Prof Vanlalchhawna

Finance Officer

Mizoram University and Expert Member

Mizoram State Planning Board

NEDP Ensuring all Round Development of the Citizens

NEDP was formulated to address the development gap left after Planning Commission was dismantled in 2014. Mizoram, which has low internal resource base and heavily depended on central transfers, witnessed a substantial increase in tax transfers through 14th Finance Commission awards. Though plan transfers had been significantly reduced, the State Government is now in a position to pursue its own development agenda in a more flexible way. Unlike centrally sponsored schemes which are attached with several conditionalities in their formulation and implementation processes, NEDP schemes are flexible and simply designed to suit local conditions and meet developmental needs of the concerned community.


In addition to these, there are several positive features of NEDP. All development sectors of the state-agriculture and allied sectors, roads and bridges, governance reform, social service sectors like education, health, climate change, solar energy development, public sector reforms etc., are given equal treatment, based on their sectoral requirement, under

“The synergy between political actors and departmental agencies have ensured NEDP schemes are being implemented smoothly over the last two years, bringing significant improvement in the socio-economic life of Mizo community.”

NEDP schemes. By addressing the needs of all these sectors in an integrated way, Mizoram economy is currently moving towards a high growth trajectory path. From subsistence economy, it has accelerated towards a high productive market economy; ultimately to a more inclusive growth process to achieve sustainable development goals.

The poor jhum farmers have now access to governmental support by way of market integration, link roads etc. by

ensuring a more sustainable livelihood for them. Young entrepreneurs are provided with micro start-up capital to venture into their dreamed projects and make them come into reality. Educated unemployed youths are being converted from being a wasted human resource into a dynamic self-employed entrepreneur under NEDP schemes which provide enabling environment for them.

Unless good economics and good politics coexist and practiced by state actors, desired development outcome could never be achieved. To avoid leakages and wastages of scarce investible resources, NEDP has incorporated transparency, monitorable targets, accountability etc in the formulation, implementation and allocation of projects and funds. The synergy between political actors and departmental agencies have ensured NEDP schemes are being implemented smoothly over the last two years, bringing significant improvement in the socio-economic life of Mizo community. 

(Views expressed in this article are of Prof Vanlalchhawna, Finance Officer, Mizoram University and Expert Member, Mizoram State Planning Board)



East and has been conducting entrepreneurship awareness sessions for youth in Mizoram since 2016. During one such event in 2017, IIMCIP team met the Secretary – Planning and discussed on the need to implement a high visibility programme that can energise the entrepreneurship ecosystem and motivate the youth to take up entrepreneurship as a career option. The discussion was followed by prompt action from the Government and “Mizoram Kailawn” was born.

It was conceptualised as a movement, which will start the long-term process of creating a sustainable platform and multi-stakeholder ecosystem within Mizoram that can support entrepreneurship. The initiative is expected to create rapid and significant awareness and interest about entrepreneurship as a desirable career path among the people of Mizoram, especially the youth. It would also

MIZORAM KILAWN – Ushering in a new Era of Entrepreneurship in the State

North East in general, and Mizoram in particular, has tremendous untapped potential as well as some developmental challenges. In 2016, the Government of Mizoram has introduced the New Economic Development Policy to address the challenges and leverage the opportunities in the state. In this policy, promoting entrepreneurship has been identified as a focus area which is expected to reverse the challenges and create positive socio-economic outcome in the State. Several initiatives

were undertaken to create a supportive ecosystem supported by local entrepreneurs, academia and knowledge partner like IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP).

IIMCIP is a Department of Science and Technology (Government of India) recognised business incubator incorporated under the aegis of IIM Calcutta to promote entrepreneurship and innovation. IIMCIP is acting as a catalyst in building the entrepreneurship ecosystem in the country, specifically in East and North

identify, support, recognise and reward the most promising early-stage entrepreneurs of Mizoram. The Mizoram State Entrepreneurship Development Monitoring Committee (MEDMOC) joined hands with IIMCIP to execute this ambitious initiative, which is the first of its kind in Mizoram and probably in North East as well.

Mizoram Kailawn was launched in July 2017 along with its unique brand identity - the logo, theme song and website. The first State level business plan contest was also launched the

same day. The initiative adopted multi pronged strategy to promote entrepreneurship and encourage people to participate in business plan contest.

The launch was followed by a comprehensive promotion leveraging print, social media, television and radio. To create significant awareness and to proactively reach out to the youth, outreach events were carried out in every district of Mizoram. The goal of this was to generate excitement about Mizoram Kailawn while increasing knowledge about entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship development. The events witnessed large audience comprising students, entrepreneurs, aspiring entrepreneurs and key stakeholders from the districts. The Business Plan contest also saw overwhelming participation and 287 applications were received covering every district of Mizoram. The participation, as a percentage of the population of the State, is extremely high compared to similar State level contests in other parts of the country.

A pool of experts from IIMCIP network screened the applications and 43 participants were selected for the next round. A five day boot camp was organised at Aizawl for the shortlisted participants. The objective was to impart essential skills to develop a high quality business plan and to present the plan to potential investors. Experts comprising of entrepreneurs, academicians, investors and mentors from all over India conducted the sessions on various aspects of business and soft skills. One on one mentoring sessions helped the participants to identify the gaps in their business plans and they worked hard for long hours to hone the presentation skills. The outcome of the boot camp was extremely encouraging. The participants who had never seen a business plan before the sessions were delivering professional elevator pitches!



Subhrangshu Sanyal

CEO- IIM Calcutta Innovation Park

This proves the potential of human resources in Mizoram.

At the end of the camp, 20 startups were selected to pitch in the semi-final round. A panel of jury evaluated the presentations and top 10 team were selected to compete in the Grand Finale. The jury in both semi-final and Grand Finale comprised investors, entrepreneurs, mentors from Mizoram and other parts of the country.

The first edition of Mizoram Kailawn culminated with the Entrepreneurship Summit at Mizoram University campus, Aizawl. The summit was graced by Chief Minister of Mizoram Lal Thanhawla as Chief Guest, Minister of Finance and Planning as Guest of Honour and Chief Secretary of Mizoram as Chairman. Attendees included government officials, local entrepreneurs and representatives from associations, college and university students and professors. The Grand Finale of the summit involved the declaration and felicitation of the Mizoram Kailawn Business Plan competition winners. A total cash award of Rs 10 lakhs were handed over to the five startups.

The outcome of Mizoram Kailawn 2017 was above expectations. The response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive. It was effective in increasing awareness on entrepreneurship and encouraged people of Mizoram, primarily the youth to conceptualise solutions leveraging the opportunities in the State and formulate a venture around that. The programme successfully identified promising start-ups and ideas, from every district of Mizoram. Additionally, there was a high participation rate of women entrepreneurs who comprised of 28 per cent of the finalists invited to participate in the boot camp, and 20 per cent of the overall applicants. The business proposals consisted of innovative solutions from a wide range of sectors including agriculture, technology, fashion/textile, tourism, manufacturing, energy and waste management, construction, services, and animal husbandry. The camp participants developed the confidence and motivation to pursue their ventures and successfully implement them.

Mizoram Kailawn is successful in its objective of making inroads to creating an ecosystem to support entrepreneurship development in the State. The entrepreneurs / finalists have been connected to potential investors to help them advance to the next stage of their business. Additionally, entrepreneurs are now connected with institutional support by means of MEDMOC as well as the Mizoram University Incubation Centre. The entrepreneurs have developed their own close network and now support one another in their various endeavours. The youth and aspiring entrepreneurs of the State are encouraged by the growing support for entrepreneurship, and they looking forward to the Mizoram Kailawn 2018. 

(Views expressed in this article are of Subhrangshu Sanyal, CEO- IIM Calcutta Innovation Park)



Joseph Ralte

Centre Director, Mizoram Food Processing Research & Training Centre (MFPRTC), Seling, Aizawl

The Government of Mizoram has introduced the New Economic Development Policy (NEDP) recently wherein Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (EDS) is one of the most important components of the policy.

NEDP Inducing Entrepreneurs in Mizoram

I, along with my entrepreneur friends started the so called “Mizoram Entrepreneurship Network [MEN]” way back in 2008. We, with our very limited capacities did our best to promote, inculcate, nurture and propagate the spirit of entrepreneurship among the youths of Mizoram. I must confess that without the intervention of the Government, we couldn’t catch the rainbow on the horizon. I never expected and believed that the Government should come forward to promote entrepreneurship in Mizoram.

Fortunately, the Government of Mizoram has introduced the New Economic Development Policy (NEDP) recently wherein Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (EDS) is one of the most important components of the policy. I am sure this EDS would pave the way and

drive the youths in gearing up the State’s economy within a short span of time.

In summary, pro-active action is needed in the entrepreneurship ecosystem to ensure the emergence of entrepreneurial movement. The Government of Mizoram, entrepreneurs, industry associations, colleges/institutes are the stakeholders. They all have to play an active role in these initiatives and coordinate with each other in the process. Thus, it is by transforming the “entrepreneurship landscape” of the State, we would be able to face the challenges of economic growth in the coming years. [egov](https://egov.eletsonline.com)

(Views expressed are of Joseph Ralte, Centre Director, Mizoram Food Processing Research & Training Centre (MFPRTC), Seling, Aizawl)



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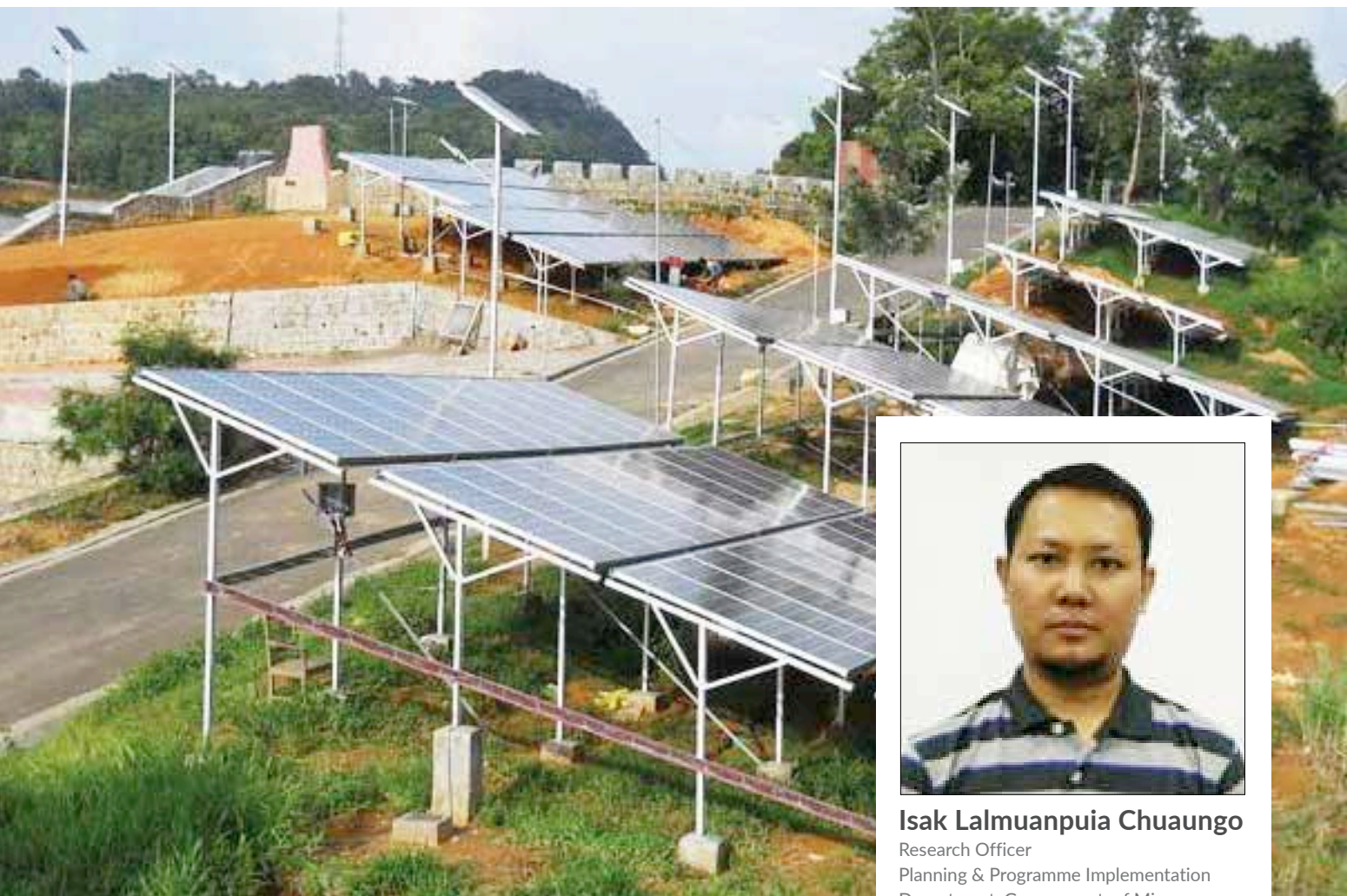
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Isak Lalmuanpuia Chuaungo

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Building Infrastructure for **ECONOMIC** Development of Mizoram

Infrastructure is fundamental to development. It is not only essential for providing basic facilities and services to the public but is the enabler, facilitator and accelerator of productive economic growth – so much so that the level of development of a country or a region is defined by the standard of infrastructural assets operating in that region. The New Economic Development Policy (NEDP) of the

Government of Mizoram gives due stress to development of infrastructure in the State, duly noting that Mizoram is lagging behind in this area. The present infrastructure scenario is unfortunate since the Human Development indicators for the State, although not satisfactory, is credible especially when viewed in comparison to the majority of the States in India. Mizoram is already experiencing one of the fastest growths in economy in the

country; with infrastructure of adequate quantity and quality Mizoram could catapult itself into the most developed small State of India.

For this reason, infrastructure development is one of the eight core Strategies enshrined in the NEDP. Of primary importance is the development and consolidation of the social overhead capitals of power, transport and communication. These are also the very sectors which are the most underdeveloped in Mizoram. Out of the cumulative figure of Rs 2,000 crores (for the three years since the implementation of NEDP i.e. 2016 to 2018) set aside by the State Government for the implementation of NEDP up till now, about 85 per cent was provisioned for infrastructure

development. For addressing the infrastructural needs for transport and communication, NEDP includes schemes such as 'Construction / Improvement of Critical Developmental Roads', 'Improvement of Connectivity between villages, towns and city', 'Improvement of Internal Roads within towns and city', 'Improvement of Internet/ Digital Connectivity', etc.

Under the Policy initiative, all the district headquarters have been connected using the Wireless technology. Further, work is underway to connect all the Government department in Aizawl City using the Gigabit-Passive Optical Network (G-PON) in which all the department will have access to reliable, secure and faster internet connectivity.

With a massive trend of rural to urban migration, the capital city of Aizawl is now home to almost one-fourth of the total population of Mizoram. As this urbanisation has been organic in nature, it has necessitated measures to combat urban congestion on one hand and to assuage the severe strain on civic infrastructure like water supply, sewerage and drainage, solid waste management, etc. on the other.

The 'Aizawl City Junction Improvement' is one initiative to relieve the traffic congestion situation in the City.

Another importance component of NEDP is the construction of all weather Agricultural Link Roads. As arable lands in Mizoram are located at a distance away from settlements which are difficult to access due to difficult terrain and undergrowth, these link roads are essential for transport to and from the agriculture areas and improve the connectivity to markets even during the rainy season.

Water supply, sewage and sanitation, solid waste and septage requirements are being actively addressed through the State Investment Programme Management and Implementation Unit in tandem with Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation and Public Health Engineering Departments of the State.

NEDP considers energy security sine qua non of any development strategy and lays down actionable points on these fronts: (i) increase in power generation to harness hydropower and solar power potentials, (ii) rationalising energy pricing to ensure consumption

efficiency, (iii) reduction of Transmission and Distribution (T&D) loss as Mizoram is one of the highest in T&D loss and; (iv) reforms in power sector management including unbundling i.e. separation of the core business units of generation, transmission and distribution into legally and operationally distinct and independent entities.

The untapped 4,500 MW of hydro electric power potential, if successfully harnessed, is sufficient to meet the local requirement for domestic and industrial energy and leave surpluses besides. The Hydro Electric Power Policy of Mizoram, 2010 is already in place too. However, due to the massive investment required for even a mini hydel project, the State is heavily reliant upon outside sources of funding. Under NEDP, therefore, initial focus is being given to solar power generation.

The Vankal Solar Park is under construction, and it is proposed to set up mini-grid SPV power plant at numerous villages in Mizoram.

Now, while economic infrastructures development is essential in creating an enabling environment for economic growth, social progress and public welfare is not really possible without the enhancement of social infrastructures such as hospitals, schools, colleges, technical institutions etc. For this reason, capital asset formation in the social sector is also high on the list of priorities under NEDP. The Government is committed to building a state of the art tertiary referral centre where specialist care may be provided for critical patients. As such, much progress has been made for the completion of the State Referral Hospital at Falkawn.

NEDP also provided for adequately equipping every district civil hospitals, for instance, by funding purchase






essential medical equipments such as CT Scan machines etc. This will not only relieve the pressure on the medical centres in Aizawl but patients will also avail the convenience of undergoing reliable medical checkup and receiving proper treatment at a minimal distance. Adequate funding is also provided for improvement of school as well as higher and technical education facilities. There are also other major infrastructure projects in the pipeline like the Chief Minister's Rural Housing Scheme, Innovation Facility Centre, Robotic Multi-level Car Parking, Mizoram Convention Centre, Aizawl City Centre, Agriculture Growth Centre etc.

A complementary and more cost-effective approach to infrastructure development, as laid down in the NEDP policy document, is to improve the utilisation, efficiency and longevity of the existing infrastructure stock.

Therefore, NEPD lays great stress on the need to execute the optimal Operation and Maintenance (O&M) policy for deriving maximum utility from public infrastructure. Due to a long rainy season, the depreciation caused by the natural elements will be countered by not only ensuring that there is stable and sufficient funding for O&M, but also by building up institutional and individual capabilities and by reforming governance on matters relating to this issue.

The next step in infrastructure development is the encouragement of private participation in the creation of public utilities. As highlighted in the NEDP policy document, the ability of the Government to bear hidden subsidies in the low-cost public sector supply of infrastructure services is severely limited. Although the Government will continue to play a dominant role, a business approach to

infrastructure services provision needs to be adopted to encourage private players to enter sectors like power plants, roads, bridges, social housing, and industrial estates on reasonable terms.

Mizoram, through NEDP, has embarked on a fast paced and focused development path wherein projects and programmes are handpicked to strengthen the economy, employ sectoral inter-linkages, are high impact economic activity, and which perpetuate a growth-friendly regulatory environment and improve the ease of doing business in the State. The Chief Minister of Mizoram further went on record to State that utmost care is being taken so that development initiatives under it are holistic and inclusive which will be accommodative of the culture, tradition and lifestyle of the Mizo people and be in conformity with the natural endowments of the land. All these hinges on the providence of core infrastructures by the Government and wherever else there is market failure. For this reason, a considerable amount of the State's resources is channeled towards this goal. 

(Views expressed in this article are of Isak Laluanpuia Chuaungo, Research Officer, Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram)





Mizoram Conclave 2018 Pondered Opportunities for Economic Growth

The first ever Mizoram Economic Conclave 2018 was organised on 6th April, 2018 by Planning and Programme Implementation Department under the New Economic Development Policy (NEDP). The Conclave brought together policy makers, expert members, academicians, leaders of the NGOs, students, start-ups and entrepreneurs to deliberate on the challenges and opportunities in the process of economic growth and the needs to be done focusing more on the role of agricultural sector including skills and entrepreneurship development. Speaking at the inaugural session, the Chief Minister of Mizoram Lal Thanhawla pointed out that the State is embarking on the stage of market economy from mere subsistence economy. He emphasised the need for good governance, peaceful atmosphere and coordination in all aspects to sustain the current high growth rate.



C Lalnunsiami

Research Officer, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram

He also highlighted the enormous potentials to scale up investment and urged committed efforts to reconcile the economic imperatives. The Chief Minister also released two Booklets

– Achievement of New Economic Development Policy for 2016-2017 to 2017-2018 and Entrepreneurship Kailawn (a manual for entrepreneurship development).

Lalsawta, Minister of Planning and Programme Implementation Department stressed that the State Government is acting as a good facilitator in achieving the market economy. He reiterated the need to focus on sustainable growth encompassing all sectors of the economy. The Conclave was ennobled with paper presentations by Dr C Vanlalramsanga, Secretary, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Dr James LT Thanga, Expert Member, Mizoram State Planning Board and Dr. Laldinliana Varte, Expert Member, MEDMOC.

The Conclave ended with a high level panel discussion highlighting the need to ensure sustainable cultivation by improving the mechanisation and marketing system of the agriculture and by characterising crops which have higher market potentials. It was also emphasised that effort was imperative to reach out young people and create opportunities for entrepreneurship development and innovation, channelling them into a path of development process. To enable this, there would be a need to invest in quality education focusing on vocational and entrepreneurial education.

An exhibition was organised at the Conclave featuring Micro Start-up Winners and Entrepreneurship Knowledge Centre, Mizoram Food Processing & Research Training Centre and Mizoram Consultancy (Local Partner-IIM, Kolkata). 

(Views expressed in this article are of C Lalnunsiami, Research Officer, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram)



Mary Lalrinchhungi

Research Officer
Planning and Implementation
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Government of Mizoram

Bringing Social Change Through NEDP



Though NEDP has been implemented by the State only recently and its activities are still confined to a few selected fields, its achievement in the social sector is encouraging. There still exist a great scope for expansion in terms of coverage and extent.

The emergence of society in human history has its root in people living together in a community. When in a society, a diverse variety of individual needs and demands has commonality, social problems come into being. It requires education, research, efforts, strategy and investment to analyse such problem and come up with a solution. In modern days, social intervention by Government has become crucial. Accordingly, combining growth strategies across various sectors of the economy, the Government of Mizoram introduced a comprehensive development Programme – New Economic Development Programme (NEDP) from the year 2016 – 2017.

One of the important components of the NEDP is the Social Sector which encompasses public health, education, nutrition, water supply, sanitation, poverty alleviation etc. Development of this sector will result in improvement in the quality life and well being of the

people, achievement of all- round development of human capital, increasing productivity of human resources and ultimately enhance the rate of economic growth. Hence, investment in social sector development is of vital importance.

Mizoram has done fairly well in the social sector. It ranked higher than the national average in terms of Human Development Index(HDI), particularly in the field of nutrition and literacy. However, the State is lagging behind in terms of quality education, employability, skills development, quality health and medical services, access to adequate safe drinking water, modern and hygienic sanitation facilities etc. Therefore, the Government's NEDP initiates action to complement efforts taken through existing schemes and programmes in the development of this sector.

In the health sector, with the objective of providing affordable and quality

healthcare to the people of Mizoram initiatives, such as skill development and training for different levels of health care workers, improvement of Primary Health Centers in convergence with National Health Mission, improvement of district Hospitals as per Indian Public health Standards (IPHS) Mission, support for establishment of reputable Referral Hospital, Food and Drugs Safety Programme, Patient Safety Programme (PSP), Bio-Medical Waste Management are undertaken under NEDP.

During the year 2016-2018, under this policy, all district hospitals were equipped with modern medical devices such as endoscopy machines, ultrasound machines, motorised operating table, C T scans etc. Under the scheme, improvement of health care facilities in all district hospitals with an outlay Rs 2,900 lakhs, trainings for regulatory personnels, drugs dealers and food business operators, awareness programme on food and drugs safety etc, were conducted.

Adequate drinking water, sanitation and hygiene are fundamental to human health. Depletion of natural fresh water supply coupled with insanitation has become a threat to the health and quality life of the populace. Mizoram is still on its way in achieving National norms of Water Supply level (70lpcd). NEDP supports efforts to provide adequate drinking water and sanitation for all the people in Mizoram in convergence with other schemes, programmes and projects being implemented in the State.

Financial support were given for operation and maintenance of existing water supply and sanitation infrastructure, improvement in water transmission system, improvement in metering and billing system to reduce non-revenue water for better cost recovery, improvement in water supply quality through better and more efficient treatment/monitoring/surveillance.



Operation and maintenance of various water supply schemes were undertaken to ensure continuous water supply and wider coverage of water distribution through out the State.

Water treatment plants were equipped with basic mandatory equipments through NEDP funding.


For better convenience of the people, Smart Water solution that provides a computerised paperless system starting from application for new connection, meter reading, bill payment, addressing consumer grievances to revenue analysis is being developed under NEDP. Handheld devices for meter readings that will help in saving time and paper as well as avoiding reading entry errors was also introduced.

In the education sector, the Government of Mizoram has set up the Education Reforms Commission (ERCM) to recommend ways and means to raise standards, and improve quality in all sectors of education, namely, pre-school, elementary, tertiary, professional and technical. The Commission has submitted its recommendation in 2010 and the Government has accepted the report and recommendation. The State Government has been continuously implementing the Commission's recommendation through various sources of funding. NEDP support implementation of the recommendation of Education Reforms Commission (ERCM) with a focus on enhancing the capacity of competence of

teachers and infrastructure development in Education Sector. Under NEDP initiatives, construction and maintenance of school infrastructures in all districts, establishment of smart classrooms for 24 colleges, upgradation of science laboratories for five colleges, establishment of online exam centre in technical wing of H&TE Department, improvement of library for 24 colleges were undertaken.

In the field of games and sports, primacy is given to infrastructural development because the challenge faced by the State is not dearth of talents. In spite of limited resources, Mizoram has excelled in sports discipline like football, boxing and other contact sports both at the National and International level. Utmost effort has been given under NEDP towards development of sports infrastructure.

Though NEDP has been implemented by the State only recently and its activities yet confined to a few selected fields, its achievement in the social sector is very encouraging. This is a result of sound cooperation between political leaders and officials at different stages of the planning, implementation and monitoring of schemes and programmes under the policy. The scope of social sector is far and wide and its effect far reaching and significant, touching on people in all walks of life. Hence, greater efforts, better infrastructure, stronger commitment, and a more adequate fund and active peoples' participation are required to reach the desired level of achievement.

Though NEDP has been implemented by the State only recently and its activities are still confined to a few selected fields, its achievement in the social sector is encouraging. There still exist a great scope for expansion in terms of coverage and extent. 

(Views expressed in this article are of Mary Lalrinchungi, Research Officer Planning and Implementation, Department, Government of Mizoram)



Isak Lalmuanpuia Chuaungo

Research Officer
Planning & Programme Implementation
Department, Government of Mizoram

‘Mizoram Rahbi’ Helping Startups Finding Base in the State

Notwithstanding the enthusiasm amongst the entrepreneurs and the significant progress made in the field of small scale industries, the pace of industrialisation in Mizoram has been rather sluggish

due to many persistent adverse factors, among which, lack of organisational structure, poor infrastructural facilities like communication and power, inadequate market knowledge and access are prominent. Paucity of ready

source for financing fresh businesses also hinders growth in this sector.

The Economic Survey of Mizoram for 2015-16 indicates that the total number of industrial units registered each year has shown a generally declining trend from 594 in 2007-08 to 169 in 2015-16. Interestingly, in terms of flow of investment and generation of employment, their contribution has been high and rising for the same period. Among these units, service sector such as healthcare, hotels etc. are having higher investment and employment as compared to manufacturing sector.

It is, therefore, imperative to adopt a holistic approach for creating a

conducive business environment and motivate the spirit of entrepreneurship in the State. Under the aegis of NEDP, the Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (EDS) has been formulated with the objective of imparting to the people the skills necessary to prepare them to start their own venture and provide them with institutional and knowledge-based support to successfully run their business. One of the key ingredients of the scheme is the Micro Startup Capital Competition which, as the nomenclature suggests, aims to provide micro funding to potential and promising start-up ventures through an unbiased competitive selection process.

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. To this end, the Micro Startup Capital Competition or "Mizoram Rahbi" initiative seeks to provide a 'stepping stone' (which is what 'rahbi' means in the Mizo language) for emerging and early stage entrepreneurs who are yet to gain traction through grant of micro capital. This assistance will be administered through a fair contest wherein business startup plan proposals will be judged by an unbiased panel of experts to assist sincere enterprises that will potentially in turn contribute to the 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.

As risk taking is an integral part of entrepreneurship and risk free investment almost never succeeds, the winners will be expected to match fund required for their business plan that is over and above the grant amount (which is a sum not exceeding Rs 5 lakh



or half the estimate of the business plan, whichever is lower) or through bank loan.

It is of great importance to note that 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 through open Competition. The initiative goes further by putting in place a mechanism for monitoring the progress of the ventures funded under it, provides institutional and knowledge-based support and scrutinises whether the fund granted is being utilised properly.

The Micro Startup Capital Competition will be open to all residents of Mizoram who have recently started or wish to start an innovative business venture within Mizoram. The main focus group, however, will be the younger demography of the indigenous Mizo workforce.

The Micro Startup Capital Competition initiative will work in tandem with other initiatives under NEDP in general and EDS in particular which include administrative reforms in Ease of Doing Business, strengthening of infrastructure development for entrepreneurs and farmers, preparation of entrepreneurship manual, setting up of entrepreneurship knowledge centre for providing handholding support services and data bank, conducting

need-based entrepreneurship and skill development programme, conducting exposure trips for potential entrepreneurs, tie-up with Mizoram University Incubation Centre, IIM Calcutta Innovation Park, etc.

The first Micro Start-Up Capital Competition was organised where all the participants were carefully observed and their proposals were wisely examined by expert members. After several rounds of competition and grooming sessions, there were 15 winners in this competition. All these winners are continuously monitored and fund was released in two installments based on their business outcome. The winners of first Micro Start Up Competition have been successfully carrying out their individual businesses in their own fields.

The second Micro Start Up Capital Competition was launched on 7th December, 2017. The Competition had 94 contestants with unique business proposals. This alone highlights the headway made in the promotion of entrepreneurship in the State since the days of the first competition. Three rounds of judging and a boot camp later we have 20 promising winners who will further the entrepreneurial spirit in the State. 

(Views expressed in this article are of Isak Lalmuanpuia Chuaungo, Research Officer, Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram)

NEDP Intervention in **AGRICULTURE** and Allied Sector

Agriculture and Allied Sector has been identified as one of the most important key growth drivers under the National Economic Development Plan (NEDP). About 47.58 per cent of the population of the State are engaged in Agricultural and Allied activities (2013 Labour Bureau), whereas share of the sector to the State Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is 32 per cent (2016-17). Hence, the contention for focussed attention to specially selected crops and infrastructure requirements and other policy interventions of the sector is under NEDP.

Marketing of agricultural and horticultural produce is an important area which has been identified for special attention under NEDP. Despite efforts of the State Government, there is yet a breakthrough in profitable marketing of produce. As of now, nearly 70 per cent of marketable surplus are disposed off through middlemen. A system of 'forward contract' is the norm in some horticultural crops such as betel nut



Chingthanmawii Guite

Senior Research Officer, Planning
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and oranges which puts the farmer in a disadvantageous position. Due to inadequate storage infrastructure, farmers are forced to sell off produce as soon as harvested thus implying that benefits of positive price movements are not reaped by the producers. Moreover, outputs are sold without any supply chain management thus depleting possible benefits from value addition. Hence the general scenario is that there is limited market access and lack of physical and institutional infrastructure.

The policy also aims at promoting transformation of subsistence agriculture to market oriented at the farm level, and for facilitation of market access and participation of small farmers in output markets.

Agriculture (Crop Husbandry):

A total of Rs 240 lakh and Rs 300 lakh was allocated for selected interventions during 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively. Onion cultivation was taken up with an area expansion of approximately 250 acres with a provision of Rs 160 crore during the first year. The remaining fund from the years' allocation was utilised for setting up of a rice mill.

Issue of area connectivity being a concern in the sector was duly given priority. During 2016-17, Rs 2,600 lakh was allocated for construction and maintenance of agricultural link roads. A total length of 416 km PAC road was freshly cut, 100 km of previously constructed PAC road was upgraded and maintained, and soling executed for 94 km of PAC road. During 2017-18, with the allocation of Rs 3000 lakh, a total length of 402.5 km PAC road was freshly cut, 447 km of previously constructed PAC road maintained and soling executed for 40 km of PAC road.

Moreover, with an allocation of Rs 4555 lakh in 2017-18, Agricultural Growth Centre is being set up at the State Capital which is designed to cater to all institutional and functional extension requirements for farmers.

In addition to these, during the last two years of implementation of NEDP, sum of Rs 1500 lakh and Rs 2000 lakh respectively were allocated for NEDP-NLUP Convergence where farmers not covered under normal NLUP were assisted @ Rs 1 lakh per family.

Horticulture:

Under Horticulture, there was an allocation of Rs 200 lakh & Rs 300 lakh for 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively. Major crops identified to be taken up under horticulture were cultivation of off-season cabbage and turmeric during 2016-17; and Rejuvenation of Senile Plantation and Canopy Management of Mandarin Orange and Productivity Enhancement of Chow Chow during 2017-18.

The first ever initiative for cultivation of off-season cabbage was taken up at five districts of the State with total beneficiaries of 120 farmers @ 1 acre each, with an allocation of Rs 120 lakh during 2016-17. It was a successful experience in terms of ready market and increased income of the farmers.

During 2016-17, intensive cultivation of turmeric was taken up in convergence with the Mission Organic Value Chain Development (MOVCD) in three villages of Mamit District with a total allocation of Rs 80 lakh for 475 beneficiaries. The scheme covered an area of 237.5 hectares (ha). With the high success rate experienced by the State in cultivation of turmeric due to high suitability of the climate, market potentials and high economic returns, an area of 47 ha was again brought under turmeric cultivation with an allocation of Rs 50 lakh during 2017-18 at Siaha District to feed the turmeric processing unit already set up by the local SHGs.

In 2017-18, the project for Rejuvenation of Senile Plantation and Canopy Management of Mandarin Orange was taken up for 356 families with a provision of Rs 150 lakh. A total



Realising the importance of maize in manufacturing of animal feed, Rs 147 lakh was allocated for maize farming.

area of 595 ha of plantations was brought under its ambit in five districts of the State. The scheme for Productivity Enhancement of Chow Chow was also introduced with a provision of Rs 100 lakh for a targeted 237 of beneficiary families @ 1 ha each.

Animal Husbandry and Veterinary

During 2017-18, Rs 600 lakh was allocated to Animal Husbandry and Veterinarian Department for taking up activities related to animal husbandry products which had high and consistent demand in local market.


Goat farming was introduced under NEDP due to the perceived favourable market conditions. The scheme for goat farming was introduced at Thenzawl Veterinary Farm with a provision of Rs 123 lakh.

Realising the importance of maize in manufacturing of animal feed, Rs 147

lakh was allocated for maize farming. In addition, Rs 270 lakh was specially allocated for contract farming of maize for animal feed which aimed to cover 500 farmers across 25 villages under PPP mode with the farmers' contribution up to 10 per cent only. This is expected to bring about a sizeable decrease in the production cost of animal feed.

For better management of marketing of local pork produce, an initiative for 'pork value chain' was introduced with Rs 90 lakh allocated for the purpose.

Mithun farming for meat has been very successful in the State based on past experiences. To encourage and popularise the activity, Rs 382 lakh was allocated during 2017-18. The initiative aims to introduce modern commercial scale mithun farming on a pattern developed by ICAR-NRC.

During the same year, an additional fund of Rs 330 lakh was provided for development of poultry entrepreneurship, provision of farmers' revolving fund for purchase of maize for animal feed and for purchase of barbed wire. 

(Views expressed in this article are of Chingthanmawii Guite, Senior Research Officer, Planning Department, Government of Mizoram)



B Lalrinhlua

Deputy Director, Directorate of
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Government of Mizoram

Sustainable Development Goals Pushing Mizoram's Growth

The World Commission on Environment and Development, 'Our Common Future', United Nations, 1987 defined Sustainable Development as a "meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations". It refers to either making constant or push for the growth of Overall Capital Assets –

- (i) Manufactured Capital (Agriculture & Allied, Industries & Services Sectors)
- (ii) Human Capital, and
- (iii) Environmental Capital.

If not, resources will be degraded, without or with little reserves and development will not be sustained.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a UN Agenda, adopted by 193 countries at 70th Summit of UN on 25th September 2015. India is a signatory. It officially

came into effect on 1st January 2016. Originally, SDGs have 17 Goals and 169 targets. Being a signatory, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India and National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog have done many exercises on Priority Indicators and Schematic Indicators.

Mizoram is the front runner in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. Planning and Programme Implementation Department is a nodal Department in the State Government. A State level Monitoring Committee on SDGs has been constituted in August, 2016 under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Mizoram. Planning Secretary is Member Secretary of the Committee. Secretaries of all line Departments are members of the Committee. A dedicated SDG Cell has

been established on Planning & Programme Implementation Department.

A Technical Committee on SDGs under the Chairmanship of Director, Economics and Statistics is also constituted to prepare and finalise schematic indicators for the goals like - No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Reduced Inequalities, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, Life Below Water, Life on Land, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; and mapping of concerned Departments/Offices have been done.

Based on Schematic Indicators for the Goals, the Technical Committee is collecting Baseline Data (2015-2016 or latest) and targets for 2019-2020, 2024-2025, 2029-2030 from concerned departments/offices. With these base-inputs, Vision Document 2030 Mizoram (incorporating 15 years' vision, 7 years' strategy and three years' action plan anchored in and within the framework of New Economic Development Policy of the State Government) will be prepared. The next step will be monitoring and localisation of SDGs. Starting from the baseline data, data will be collected each year till 2029-2030 from concerned departments/offices for assessing as to whether we are approaching the targets set or not. Moreover, SDGs will be localised down to the district level by means of customised SDGs Schematic Indicators at the district level, for which the District Planning Committee will be the monitoring machinery. 

(Views expressed in this article are of B Lalrinhlua, Deputy Director, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Mizoram)

MEDMOC, Government of Mizoram
in association with
IIM Calcutta Innovation Park
Presents

MIZORAM KAILAWN

Mizoram B-Plan Contest & E-Summit 2018

an initiative under the Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (EDS)
NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY (NEDP)



To ignite venture creation and growth, governments need to create an ecosystem that sustain entrepreneurs. That is why the new holy grail for governments in both emerging and developed countries is to create an environment that nurtures and sustains entrepreneurship. The case is also true for Mizoram. With 64 per cent of the population in the working age group coupled with various untapped opportunities backed up by political will, the State Government decided to create an ecosystem that had never existed in the State so far.

“Mizoram State Entrepreneurship Development & Monitoring Committee” or MEDMOC was constituted (dated 25.10.2016) and Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (EDS) launched on 18th January 2017. MEDMOC coordinates implementation of EDS through concerned departments, educational institutions and their agencies. Planning and Programme Implementation Department is nodal department for the scheme, and provide secretarial assistance to the Committee.

The foremost aim of MEDMOC (EDS) is to promote vibrant entrepreneurial

MEDMOC Building Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Mizoram



Dr Lalrinchhana

Deputy Adviser-cum-Deputy Secretary
Planning & Programme Implementation
Department, Government of Mizoram

scenario which is crucial for the built-up / growth of the economy. Considering this, EDS will focus on imparting the importance of entrepreneurship among schools and

colleges students in particular, and to the common people in general. Moreover, it plans to promote micro-enterprise projects / schemes with promising prospects.

Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme in school, colleges and several other institutions was conducted during 2017 covering all the district headquarters. Entrepreneurship Manual in Mizoram (Mizoram Kailawn) was published and distributed free of cost. Three expert members and 20 master trainers were appointed for creating awareness in schools and colleges and for grooming potential entrepreneurs. Trainer's Training (Faculty Development Programme) is expected to inculcate the importance of entrepreneurship development. Master trainers undergone capacity building programme at IIM Kolkata and

NIMSME, Hyderabad. Exposure trips for Innovation club of Schools and selected entrepreneurs were conducted at Delhi Innovation fair and Kolkata Industrial Estates respectively. Micro Start up Capital Competition (Mizoram Rahbi) was conducted for providing seed capital to encourage the transformation of business idea into innovative ventures and generate direct employment through start ups whereby 35 promising entrepreneurs were awarded start up through competition. Mizoram Business Plan (Mizoram Kailawn) was also conducted in partnership with IIM Kolkata Innovation Park with the intention to create a platform to identify, recognise and reward recent and prospective entrepreneurs from Mizoram. The B-Plan contest also provides hands-on experience to promising entrepreneurs to fine tune their business plans and help them be better prepared for success.

Under the aegis of MEDMOC, handholding support to entrepreneurs

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARENESS at DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

18



PLACE	DATE
Champhai	10 th March, 2017
Lunglei	14 th March, 2017
Kolasib	17 th March, 2017
Siaha	9 th March, 2017
Lawngtlai	10 th March, 2017
SERCHHIP	17 th March, 2017
Mamit	24 th March, 2017


Entrepreneurship Development Scheme - NEDP

female to motivate entrepreneurs and to expose their success. For this, MEDMOC is partnering with appropriate organization/institution such as ZIDCO etc.

The Mizoram University's "Incubation Centre" will be utilised as the situation demands for which a formal agreement

enterprises. EDS will also tie-up with UNDP's various undertakings for the establishment of micro-enterprise in the State wherever possible. Cooperation with the UNDP marketing task force is also envisaged.

The World Bank Group has ranked Mizoram as 28th out of the 32 Indian States in terms of Ease of Doing Business. To address this issue, special fund allocation and initiatives is undertaken under NEDP to create an environment conducive for entrepreneur aspirants. Besides this, dedicated fund for Innovation Facility Centre under Science and Technology Department and establishment of Mizoram Skills and Entrepreneurship Development Institute is reflected in the current year (2018-19) budget.

In fine, MEDMOC is gearing up for creation of sound entrepreneurial ecosystem in the State with the strong conviction that entrepreneurship is one of the main components of the growth drivers. 

(Views expressed in this article are of Dr Lalrinchhana, Deputy Adviser-cum-Deputy Secretary, Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram)



was provided by offering guidance and by organising consultation meetings at a very low cost. For this, "Entrepreneurs' Knowledge Centre" at ZIDCO was set up.

The 'Mizoram Outstanding Entrepreneurs Award' in sectors like Manufacturing, Services and Franchise sector is proposed to be organised every year, separately for male and

will be made with the University. The selected potential first generation entrepreneurs could probably be linked to this Centre. Commerce and Industries Department, Government of Mizoram in collaboration with International Labour Organisation (ILO) have been working on the "Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB)" scheme so that interested parties can successfully start and manage micro-

Mizoram beckons Investors via Business Summit



Captain Rahul Bali

Managing Director
Innovations India

The North East is the fastest growing part of India today, with the Government of India laying special emphasis and having a focussed approach of putting this part of India in the spotlight of growth and development. Consonant to the same, Mizoram is gearing up to highlight its immense yet unexplored business opportunities along with some unparallel advantages to the domestic and global investors, says Captain Rahul Bali, CEO Magnetic Mizoram Investors Summit 2018 and Managing Director, Innovations India.

The Government of Mizoram under the dynamic leadership of Lal Thanhawla, Chief Minister of Mizoram has introduced the New Economic Development Policy which aims at providing comprehensive growth strategy for Mizoram. The main objective is to bring about a sea change in the way priorities are placed in matters of economic development and governance to ensure that the State fully capitalises on the new opportunities placed before it with the end objective of Mizoram being able to attain a robust and self-sustaining economy in the long run.

Conforming to the NEDP of Mizoram, the Government of

Mizoram in association with Innovations India, their partners for state's overall development have planned out a well thought of event calendar that would highlight various aspects of Mizoram and convert it into one of the most desirable destinations of India.

Mizoram is all set to highlight various USPs of the State and its mystic beauty, inviting visitors from across all cross sections of the society to visit and explore the possibilities of investing in Mizoram.

A lot of ambitious events like the Magnetic Mizoram Investors Summit in Aizawl are sure to act as a great platform aimed at exploring ideas that would help the State to achieve inclusive and sustainable development by ensuring policy coherence and effective investment promotion.

Mizoram has largely remained unexplored for a very long period of time for a number of reasons. The Government of Mizoram has now taken a deliberate decision to reach out to the world showcasing their beautiful land and in fact act as a platform that would attract the brightest minds from across the country and the world to ideate, showcase innovation and best practices, and discuss their application for the benefit of the state.

Initiatives like the two day Magnetic Mizoram Investors Summit are instrumental in bringing together investors and representatives of States and Governments, leaders from the corporate world, ambassadors and diplomats, senior policymakers, top brass of hospitality fraternity, banks and financial organisations, heads of international institutions and academia from India and abroad to deliberate on investments and new projects as well as to promote business cooperation across various sectors of trade and

industry to leverage Mizoram's potential in key sectors like energy, power, bio-diversity, aviation, oil and natural gas, films, fashion, handicrafts and handlooms, silk, bamboo, grapes, wines as well as tourism, horticulture, adventure sports, etc, and connect with global investors providing a networking platform to amplify interaction between stakeholders through B2G and B2B meetings.

Mizoram is a naturally green State and has a hilly terrain with a pleasant climate. The continuous mountain ranges and spectacular water bodies make it an ideal destination for tourism, film production, adventure sports and exploration.

The State celebrates colourful festivals such as Chapchar kut, Mim kut, Pawl kut, Thalfavang kut and Christmas. Mizoram is home to many indigenous sports such as Inbuan, Inkawibah, Insukherh and Insuknawr. The State also has traditional dances, viz., Cheraw, Khullam, Chheih Lam, Chai, Rallu Lam, Solakia, Sarlamkai and Par Lam.

The traditional handicrafts and dressing of the Mizos are praise worthy.

There are several locations, which attract tourists to Mizoram, viz., Aizawl, Tamdil, Vantawang, Champai, Phwangpui, Saiha and Lunglei. Shopping centres, lakes, mountain peaks, ancient excavations and wildlife parks are some of the key attractions in the State.

The state is also the Football Capital of India having won almost all the major football tournaments in India.


If we talk about the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, that has swept the entire nation today, it's a matter of pride for the State to announce that Aizawl is one the first litter- free State capitals

of India and Mizoram also boasts of having the cleanest small town of Asia-Biate.

Mizoram is getting ready to usher in a new era of collaboration, not only for investments but also for new skills and advanced production and technology in various sectors. Seamless exchange of experiences and innovative ideas during the Summit would pave the way for various developmental projects being undertaken under collaboration with outside players.

Magnetic Mizoram Investors Summit would be a unique trade opportunity wherein the best players from all fields of business would come under one roof to showcase their range of products/services. The Summit would be a fantastic launch pad for the discerning entrepreneurs in various sectors like solar power, hospitality, leisure and travel industry, as well as for a number of big business houses of different sectors as it would act as the best platform for B2G, B2B and B2C connectivity for almost every kind of business in Mizoram.

It is a highly innovative initiative of the Government of Mizoram under the New Economic Development Policy of Mizoram that would enable a large number of business houses to kick start their business in Mizoram as well as showcase the mesmerizing beauty of Mizoram to the world. This would go a long way in promoting Mizoram as a preferred destination for both business and leisure.

Endeavours like the Magnetic Mizoram Investors Summit are sure to provide the participating partners with a definite advantage to gain an entirely new customer base and an excellent opportunity to reinforce their existing business links and open new markets in Mizoram, thereby making Mizoram the most preferred destination both for leisure and business. 

It is a highly innovative initiative of the Government of Mizoram under the New Economic Development Policy of Mizoram that would enable a large number of business houses to kick start their business in Mizoram as well as showcase the mesmerizing beauty of Mizoram to the world.



It is an exciting time to be in Mizoram. If you are looking for a place brimming with talent and potential, risk takers and “first followers”, as well as institutional and community support, you have just described Mizoram.

Understanding that if provided with the right guidance and opportunity Mizos can be propelled to reach great heights, the State Government is taking a concerted effort to build and support the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Mizoram. One of the ways in which they are doing this is by creating platforms for both aspiring and established entrepreneurs. Mizoram Kailawn 2017, Mizoram’s first ever business plan competition and entrepreneurship summit, was one such platform.

Mizoram Kailawn-A Platform To Promote Entrepreneurship

Mizoram Kailawn is a multi-stakeholder initiative under the New Economic Development Policy (NEDP) implemented by Mizoram State Entrepreneurship Development Monitoring Committee (MEDMOC), a nodal body of the Government of Mizoram, and executed by knowledge partner Indian Institute of Management

Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP), with local partner Mizoram Consultancy Group (MZCG).

The primary objective of Mizoram Kailawn is to create 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.

Mizoram Kailawn 2017 launched the call for business plan idea proposals in July 2017. Following the launch, a team of MEDMOC Master Trainers and MzCG personnel travelled to each district in Mizoram to conduct outreach and awareness programmes aimed at encouraging folks to apply. Close to 300 applications were submitted – a remarkable turn out for a state thought to be in the nascent stages of entrepreneurship development. The hunger and drive of the Mizos was tangible.

40 finalists were shortlisted and invited to take part in the four-day residential Boot Camp, which took place at Mizoram University. The business plans and ideas spanned various sectors from agriculture to construction, skill building to handicrafts, and tourism to recycling to name a few. Not only was there great diversity of ideas, but also finalists represented seven of the eight districts of Mizoram, ranged in age and background, and a third of the finalists were women.

During the four-day intensive training, experts and mentors from IIMCIP and MEDMOC led workshop sessions to refine and hone finalists' business plan proposals and presentation skills. Finalists were challenged to scrutinise every aspect of their business plans. Mentors worked diligently and took great care to provide constructive feedback to all finalists. In addition to the IIMCIP team, mentors included Abhijit Bhaumik (consultant), Suman Mukhopadhyay (Director, Banglanatak.com), Devasis Gupta (consultant, mentor), Vikram Duggal (investor, advisor), and Viresh Oberoi (advisor). At the start of the Boot Camp, finalists raised concerns about sharing their business ideas with the group. However, once they started sessions and interacted with each other

that seemed to be a distant memory. The finalists, or Kailawners as they affectionately call themselves, quickly stepped up to support each other wherever needed. They critiqued each other's plans, evaluated financials where needed, assisted with translations, and lent their expertise when possible. When the Kailawners were not busy in sessions or developing their business plans, they could be heard discussing solutions to spur the growth of Mizoram and capitalise on the gifts bestowed to our state. Beyond providing assistance with the business plans and presentations, the Kailawners made connections and plans to support each other on various endeavours, and continue to do so to this day. A new network was born.

From the 40 finalists, 20 were selected to proceed on to the semi-final round, from which another 10 were shortlisted for the final round. Judges for the semi-finals and finals rounds included mentors and experts from IIMCIP, MEDMOC, and local Mizo entrepreneurs. In addition to the IIMCIP team, mentors and evaluators for the semi-final and finals rounds included Neichute Doulo (Entrepreneurs Associates and Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2016 Awardee), Vipul Kumar (Country Director, Ennovent), Chandrakant Komaragiri (Senior Manager, Ennovent), Lalrinzuala (UNDP Project Coordinator, MEDMOC Expert Member), David Lalmuanpuia Fanai (F Hrangvela Industries, local entrepreneur) Dr Franklin Marina (Abigail Homestore, local entrepreneur) and B Lalrinkima (TATA Trusts Mizoram).


Mizoram Kailawn 2017 culminated with the first ever Entrepreneurship Summit in Mizoram. The Summit was graced by Lal Thanhawla, Chief Minister of Mizoram as Chief Guest; Lalsawta, Minister of Planning and Programme Implementation and Finance as Guest of Honour; and Lalmalsawma, Chief Secretary as Chairman. Attendees included government officials, local entrepreneurs and business people, college and

university students and professors.

The summit included a keynote address by Hasina Kharbhih, Impulse NGO Network and Ashoka Fellow, and panel discussions on Emerging Entrepreneurship Opportunities in Mizoram and Creating a Supportive Ecosystem for Entrepreneurship Development. The winners of the Mizoram Kailawn 2017 Business Plan Competition were declared and celebrated at the Summit.

Mizoram Kailawn 2017 was successful in its objective of making inroads to creating an ecosystem to support entrepreneurship development in the State. As a result of Mizoram Kailawn, entrepreneurs have been connected to potential investors and mentors to help them advance to the next stage of their business. Additionally, entrepreneurs are now connected with institutional support by means of MEDMOC as well as the Mizoram University Incubation Centre.

Following a successful initiative in 2017, Mizoram Kailawn 2018 was launched on 3 April, 2018 by Lalsawta, Minister of Planning and Programme Implementation and Finance. The ecosystem and network to support aspiring entrepreneurs is growing, and as such, supporting partners for Mizoram Kailawn now includes Mizoram University Incubation Centre, North East Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi), Science and Technology Parks of India (STPI), and TATA Trusts.

Mizoram Kailawn 2018 holds the promise of another exciting journey to discover more bright minds keen on making a positive impact to their community. With such platforms as Mizoram Kailawn, a new generation of role models and change makers will be provided a voice. 

(Views expressed in this article are of Zoramawii Ralte, Managing Partner, Mizoram Consultancy Group)

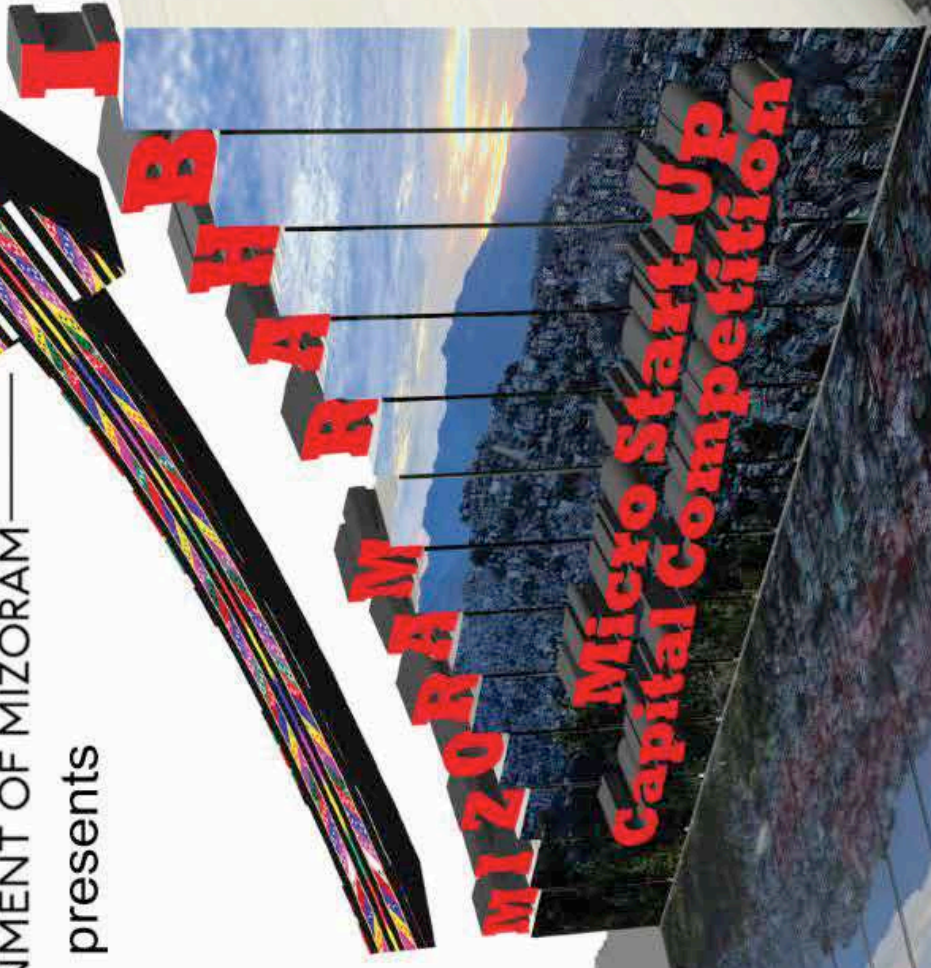
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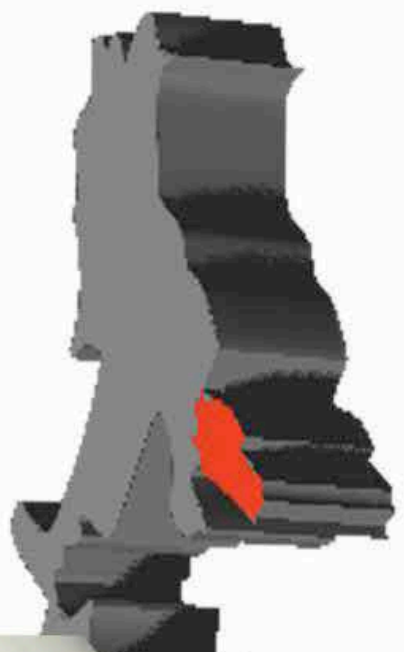


—GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM—

presents



An initiative of
Entrepreneurship
Development Scheme
(EDS)
under
NEW ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT POLICY
(NEDP)





MAGNETIC MIZORAM

Investors Summit 2018 *Berawtlang, Aizawl*

20th -21st April 2018

USHERING IN A NEW ERA OF COLLABORATION

