

CONCEPT NOTE

MIZORAM GRAND CHALLENGE

About the Challenge

The **Mizoram Grand Challenge** is an open, team-based innovation competition aimed at addressing key socio-economic and developmental challenges in Mizoram. These challenges have been identified through detailed Root Cause Analysis (RCA).

The initiative seeks to engage youth and community groups in proposing practical, innovative, and scalable solutions that contribute to the sustainable development of the state.

Eligibility & Participation

- Participation is **team-based only**.
- Teams must consist of:
 - **Minimum:** 2 members
 - **Maximum:** 10 members
- Eligible participants:
 - Colleges
 - NGOs / CSOs
 - General public
- An individual may **not** be a member of more than one team.
- Multiple teams may participate from the same college or NGO/CSO.

The Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram, has identified specific root-cause challenges. Each team must propose a solution to one selected challenge.

ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS (RCA)

Root Cause Analysis (RCA) is a structured problem identification and mapping process conducted by the Planning & Programme Implementation Department through:

- Stakeholder consultations
- Discussions across sectors
- Collection of primary and secondary data

The underlying causes behind major development challenges in Mizoram have been studied intensively.

Participants may choose from the following challenge themes:

Challenge Areas

- a. **Agriculture** – Problems and root causes in ginger cultivation in Mizoram.
- b. **Handloom & Handicraft Development** – Livelihood insecurity in the Mizoram handloom sector: Structural and institutional analysis.
- c. **Tourism Development** – Qualitative assessment of domestic tourism development in Mizoram: Stakeholder perspectives and system-level challenges.
- d. **Urban & Infrastructure** – Persistent solid waste management issues posing environmental and public health risks.
- e. **Education** – Gaps in foundational problem-solving skills among youth affecting success in competitive STEM examinations (with respect to Mizoram).
- f. **Health** – Prevalence of multi-dimensional malnutrition among infants and growing children in Mizoram.
- g. **Environment** – Jhum cultivation and deforestation.
- h. **Climate Change** – Climate stress on the agricultural sector.

(An in-depth study of each challenge is available on the MISTIC website.)

ORIENTATION & MENTORING

- A **one-day workshop** will introduce participants to the RCA of selected challenge topics.
- Followed by **one-on-one mentoring sessions** with sector experts on draft solutions.

Mentoring Support

A pool of mentors will be provided from:

- Mizoram Start Up Mission (MSUM)
- Programme Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation (PIME) Unit
- State Programme Management Unit (SPMU)
- Mizoram Science Technology & Innovation Council (MISTIC)

Participants may seek guidance from these mentors throughout the development process.

Important Rules

- Each team must develop an **original and creative solution**.
- Duplication or replication of another team's solution will result in **disqualification**.
- Solutions containing anti-government content or political defamation will be disqualified.
- Outsourcing work to third parties is strictly prohibited.
- Artificial Intelligence cannot be used as the **sole method** for generating solutions.

GRAND DEMO DAY

Each team will pitch their solution before a panel of judges.

Presentation Format:

- All team members must be present on stage.
- At least **two members** must present.
- **10 minutes** presentation time.
- **5 minutes** Q&A session.

Travel allowances will be provided to colleges located outside Aizawl for:

- Orientation & Mentoring Sessions
- Grand Demo Day

AWARDS

Cash prizes will be awarded as follows:

- 🏆 **1st Prize** – ₹1,00,000 (One Lakh)
- 🥈 **2nd Prize** – ₹70,000 (Seventy Thousand)
- 🥉 **3rd Prize** – ₹50,000 (Fifty Thousand)
- 🏆 **4th Prize** – ₹30,000 (Thirty Thousand)

PILOT DEPLOYMENT

- The Government may implement top solutions.
- CSR/private partners may also be supported to implement selected ideas.
- Winners may be incubated at the Mizoram Start-up Hub (MSH).
- Financial support of ₹1–3 lakhs per solution may be provided for pilot deployment and validation.

TIMELINE

| Sl. No. | Activity | Date |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Orientation & Mentoring | 11th March, 2026 |
| 2 | Grand Demo Day | 24th–25th March, 2026 |