

THE MIZORAM WATER INFORMATION AND GOVERNANCE BILL, 2026

A

Bill

To provide for the comprehensive management, governance, standardization, accessibility, and security of water-related data in the State of Mizoram; to establish institutional mechanisms to ensure reliable, real-time, and policy-useful water information; to promote transparency and scientific decision-making in water resource planning, disaster preparedness, and climate resilience; and to align with national initiatives such as the National Hydrology Project and India-Water Resource Information System.

Whereas water is a critical and finite resource that demands integrated, evidence-based, and participatory governance;

And whereas the terrain, ecology, and socio-cultural fabric of Mizoram necessitate a regionally customized but scientifically robust approach to water data management;

Be it enacted by the Mizoram Legislative Assembly in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.-

- (1) This Act may be called the Mizoram Water Information and Governance Act, 2026.
- (2) It shall extend to the whole of Mizoram.
- (3) It shall come into force on the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions.-

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

- (a) "Authority" means the State Water Data and Information Authority constituted under this Act.
- (b) "audit log" means a system-generated record of all changes, accesses, and transactions related to water data storage and use.
- (c) "the centre" means the Mizoram State Water Informatics Centre established under this Act.
- (d) "departmental water data unit" means a designated cell within a department responsible for compiling and submitting water-related datasets.
- (e) "District Water Data Cell" means a decentralized water data node at the district level coordinating field-level information flow to the centre.
- (f) "Geographic Information System" means spatial data systems used to store, manage, analyze, and visualize georeferenced water-related data

- (g) "hydro-meteorological data" means rainfall, temperature, humidity, evapotranspiration, and related atmospheric parameters.
- (h) "interoperability" means the technical ability of data systems and platforms to exchange, interpret, and process datasets across departments or agencies.
- (i) "metadata" means structured information describing the characteristics, accuracy, source, format, and timestamp of datasets.
- (j) "Non-Revenue Water" means the portion of water produced for supply that is lost before it reaches consumers, through leaks, theft, or unbilled consumption.
- (k) "Open Data" means non-sensitive, validated water datasets made publicly accessible by the centre in machine-readable formats.
- (l) "real-time monitoring station" means automated telemetry-based sensors installed for continuous data capture and remote transmission.
- (m) "State Water Information Repository" means the centralized, secure database maintained by the Centre under the Act.
- (n) "State Government" means the Government of Mizoram.
- (o) "Water Data Officer" means an officer designated by their respective Departments to ensure data compliance under this Act.
- (p) "Water Data Governance Scorecard" means an official performance review tool used by State Water Data Information Authority to assess and report on compliance by departments and districts.
- (q) "Water Information Platform" means the integrated digital system maintained by State Water Informatics Centre to manage, visualize, and disseminate water-related datasets.
- (r) "water data" means all data related to water resources, including but not limited to quantity, quality, availability, usage, hazards, infrastructure, and socio-economic aspects.
- (s) "water quality parameters" means physical, chemical, and biological indicators such as turbidity, pH, total dissolved solids, fecal coliform, nitrates, heavy metals, etc.

CHAPTER II

INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE

3. State Water Data and Information Authority .-

(1) The State Water Data and Information Authority shall be constituted as the apex policy, regulatory, and coordination body under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary.

- (2) The Authority shall consist of the following members, namely:-
- (a) Secretary, Irrigation and Water Resources Department (Vice-Chairperson);
 - (b) Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department ;
 - (c) Secretary, Power & Electricity Department ;
 - (d) Secretary, Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation;
 - (e) Secretary, Environment, Forests & Climate Change;
 - (f) Secretary, Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Department;
 - (g) Secretary, Department of Horticulture ;
 - (h) Secretary, Land Resources, Soil & Water Conservation Department;
 - (i) Secretary, Department of Fisheries;
 - (j) Secretary, Commerce and Industries Department;
 - (k) Secretary, Disaster Management and Rehabilitation;
 - (l) Secretary, Health and Family Welfare;
 - (m) Principal Scientific Officer, Science & Technology Department;
 - (n) Director, Economics and Statistics Department;
 - (o) Director, Geology & Mining;
 - (p) Chairman, Mizoram Pollution Control Board;
 - (q) Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Water Resources Department (Member Secretary)
 - (r) Director, Mizoram State Water Informatics Centre (Convener);
 - (s) Two experts in water informatics or hydrology nominated by the Authority;
 - (t) Representative from Central Water Commission as Invitee.
- (3) The State Water Data and Information Authority shall:
- (a) approve water data standards, formats, and metadata protocols as recommended by the Centre;
 - (b) enforce data reporting obligations, audit practices, and departmental compliance;
 - (c) guide convergence of departmental data systems and integration with national platforms;
 - (d) recommend technological, legal, and institutional reforms to strengthen water data governance;
 - (e) review and publish Water Data Governance Scorecards for departments and districts;
 - (f) approve State-level water data innovation pilots and strategic partnerships;
 - (g) approve and enforce State Hydromet Data Dissemination Policy framed by Mizoram State Water Informatics Centre.

4. Function of Mizoram State Water Informatics Centre.-

- (1) The Centre shall act as nodal agency and repository for state-wide water resources data. It shall act as Nodal Agency for integration of water resources data within the state.
- (2) It shall be responsible for maintaining, updating, collation and dissemination of data and information.
- (3) It shall be the single point solution for regional and micro-level water resources data amalgamation and its dissemination.
- (4) It shall be responsible for primary data validation.
- (5) It shall be responsible for additional database & geo-spatial data creation as per state specific needs and shall be responsible for correctness of information within the state.
- (6) It shall be responsible for maintaining and running of the “Mizoram State Water Resources Information System” in coordination and consultation with the National Water Informatics Centre.
- (7) It shall be responsible for formulating and implementing the “Mizoram State Water Resources Data Dissemination Policy”.
- (8) It shall serve as the State’s Nodal Interface with national systems such as National Water Informatics Centre, India-Water Resources Information System, and other allied platforms as well as with other states’ agencies.
- (9) It shall be responsible for sharing of hydro-meteorological data amongst central and other state government organizations, stakeholders of water and general public as per the Mizoram State Water Resources Data Dissemination Policy.
- (10) It shall have the mandate to collect water resources data from any agencies within the state using data standards and submission protocols it designs.
- (11) It shall be responsible for providing and developing tools to create value added maps by way of multilayer stacking of Geographic Information System database so as to provide integrated view to the water resources scenarios.
- (12) It shall be responsible for the development of applications and decision support systems.
- (13) Mizoram State Water Informatics Centre shall be headed by a Director, and supported by a multidisciplinary team comprising of:

Information Technology Officers, Geographic Information System Analysts, Hydrologists, Data Engineers, a water quality specialist, Finance and Administration Officers, and Liaison Officers from key departments (Public Health Engineering Department, Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare Department, Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department, Urban Local Bodies, Disaster Management & Rehabilitation Department and Directorate of Economics & Statistics)

5. Departmental Water Data Units and Water Data Officers.-

- (1) Every department generating water-related data shall designate a Water Data Officer and establish a Departmental Water Data Unit. Departments may also designate a District Water Data Officer, if felt necessary.
- (2) The Water Data Officers shall perform the following functions, namely:-
 - (a) serve as the single point of contact for water data within the department;
 - (b) ensure timely, validated, and standard-compliant submission of datasets to Mizoram State Water Informatics Centre;
 - (c) coordinate with the Centre and District Water Data Officer (wherever applicable) for integration, troubleshooting, and validation;
 - (d) participate in capacity-building programs and inter-departmental data reviews.

CHAPTER III

DATA GENERATION, STANDARDS, AND MANAGEMENT

6. Mandatory Water Data Reporting.-

- (1) All departments, agencies, and public authorities in Mizoram engaged in the creation, use, or maintenance of water-related information shall submit datasets to the Centre at intervals prescribed by State Water Data and Information Authority.
- (2) Each District Water Data Officer, wherever applicable, shall submit district water data to their respective department's Water Data Officer who shall further submit it to Director, State Water Informatics Centre.
- (3) The types of data to be reported shall include but not be limited to:-
 - (a) surface water flow and levels (rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs);
 - (b) groundwater levels, extraction points, and recharge rates;
 - (c) rainfall and hydro-meteorological observations;
 - (d) water quality parameters (including turbidity, pathogens, contaminants);
 - (e) agricultural water use, irrigation coverage, and cropping intensity;
 - (f) urban and rural water supply metrics (distribution, coverage, Non-Revenue Water);
 - (g) infrastructure status (dams, check dams, ponds, water supply schemes);
 - (h) flood risk zones and drought vulnerability indicators.
- (4) All submissions must comply with the formats, frequency, and validation rules prescribed by the Centre and approved by State Water Data Information Authority.

7. Data Standards and Validation Protocols.-

- (1) The Centre shall develop and publish Standard Operating Procedures for:
 - Data collection and digitization methodologies
 - Metadata definitions and classification codes
 - Accuracy thresholds and validation steps
 - Geographic Information System referencing for all spatial datasets
- (2) Departments shall be required to adopt these standards and train designated Water Data Officers accordingly.
- (3) State Water Data and Information Authority may revise these standards periodically and shall conduct annual performance audits of departmental adherence.

8. Real-Time and Legacy Data Systems.-

- (1) The Centre shall ensure integration of data from the following:-
 - (a) real-time telemetry stations (piezometers, Automatic Weather Stations, Automatic Rain Gauges, stream gauges)
 - (b) manual monitoring stations and legacy datasets maintained by line departments
 - (c) historical climate and hydrology records from past projects and agencies
- (2) A uniform protocol shall be followed for reconciliation and digitization of historical records compatible formats.

9. Water Data Quality Rating and Scorecards.-

- (1) State Water Data and Information Authority shall institute a Water Data Governance Scorecard to evaluate each department and district based on:
 - (a) timeliness and frequency of submissions
 - (b) completeness and comprehensiveness of datasets
 - (c) quality and validity of submitted information
 - (d) responsiveness to queries and audit recommendations
- (2) The scorecard ratings shall be published annually in the public domain to promote transparency and inter-agency performance.
- (3) Outstanding performing Water Data Officers, departments, and districts shall be acknowledged through awards and incentives as notified by the Government.

CHAPTER V

ACCESS, APPLICATION, AND OPEN INNOVATION

10. The Mizoram Water Resources Information System Portal.-

- (1) The Centre shall maintain the public-facing Mizoram Water Resources Information System Portal offering dashboards, open data visualizations, and downloadable datasets.
- (2) The portal shall support queries by district, river basin, water scheme, thematic layer, and time period.
- (3) It shall also include metadata catalogs, historical archives, interactive maps, and application programming interfaces.

11. Research and Innovation Access.-

- (1) Accredited academic institutions, think tanks, and recognized startups may request access to curated or anonymized datasets for research, technology development, or governance innovation.
- (2) Mizoram State Water Informatics Centre shall facilitate data-sharing partnerships and provide sandbox environments for testing digital water governance tools.
- (3) Periodic **hackathons, data challenges, and student fellowships** may be organized by the Centre with support from State Water Data & Information Authority to promote innovation.

12. Early Warning and Climate Services.-

- (1) State Water Informatics Centre shall develop data-driven early warning systems for hydrological hazards such as:
 - (a) Floods, droughts, aquifer stress, spring drying, and urban water stress.
- (2) These services shall utilize real-time monitoring, climate models, and historical data to:
 - (a) issue district-wise risk alerts and preparedness advisories,
 - (b) support contingency planning by disaster management and local bodies,
 - (c) enable integration into smart irrigation and climate-resilient planning tools.
- (3) The Centre shall coordinate with the India Meteorological Department, National Disaster Management Authority, State Disaster Management Authority and relevant scientific institutions for forecasting alignment.

CHAPTER VI

COMPLIANCE AND PENALTIES

13. Offences and Penalties.-

- (1) The following shall constitute offences under this Act:-
 - (a) failure to report mandatory data within specified timelines;
 - (b) submission of falsified, manipulated, or incomplete data;
 - (c) obstruction of inspection, audit, or monitoring by the Centre or SWADIA;
 - (d) unauthorized alteration or deletion of records from departmental databases.
- (2) The penalties for such offences shall include:
 - (a) warning or show-cause notice for first offence;
 - (b) monetary penalty up to one lakh rupees for departments and up to ten thousand rupees for individuals, to be remitted to Government treasury;
 - (c) public disclosure of persistent non-compliance in scorecard ratings;
 - (d) recommendation for disciplinary action by the department.

14. Enforcement Mechanism.-

- (1) State Water Data & Information Authority may designate a compliance review cell to monitor violations and recommend actions.
- (2) The Centre shall maintain an audit log of submissions, modifications, and delays.
- (3) Annual reports on compliance shall be submitted to the State Government.

15. Recognition and Incentives.-

- (1) The Government may institute Annual Water Data Awards for the following, namely:-
 - (a) best-performing districts, departments, and Water Data Officers,
 - (b) most innovative data applications or public visualizations.
- (2) top scorers in water data governance scorecards shall receive:
 - (a) budgetary flexibility, access to data innovation grants, and public recognition.

CHAPTER VII

FINANCE, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND MISCELLANEOUS

16. Budgetary Support and Water Data Fund.-

- (1) The State Government shall provide adequate and recurring budgetary support for;
 - (a) administrative & Operational costs of State Water Data & Information Authority and the Centre,
 - (b) establishment and upgrade of digital platforms, Geographic Information System, telemetry, and monitoring systems,
 - (c) innovation pilots, hackathons, scorecard dissemination, and training programs.
- (2) The Government shall constitute a Water Data Fund, to be administered by State Water Data & Information Authority, which may receive:
 - (a) grants from State and Central Governments,
 - (b) contributions from bilateral, multilateral, and development partners,
 - (c) Corporate Social Responsibility funds and private sector support for data-driven innovation,
 - (d) earnings from capacity-building programs, data analytics tools, or licensing of curated datasets.
- (3) The fund shall be audited annually by the State Accountant General and placed in the public domain.

17. Capacity Building and Institutional Development.-

- (1) The Centre shall design annual training calendars and capacity-building modules for Water Data Officers, engineers, administrators, and GIS/IT professionals.
- (2) The State may establish a Mizoram Water Data Training Centre, independently or in collaboration with national agencies (such as National Institutes of Health, North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management, National Water Academy)
- (3) An annual Departmental Capacity Index shall be developed to assess human resource capabilities for water data governance.

18. Power to Make Rules.-

- (1) The State Government may within six months from the commencement of this Act, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act.
- (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing powers, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:-
 - (a) meta data standard, model forms and audit format.
 - (b) matters relating to public access, scorecard evaluation, subject to prior public consultation.
 - (c) any other matter which is to be or may be prescribed.
- (3) Every rule made by the State Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before the Mizoram Legislative Assembly.

19. Protection of Action Taken in Good Faith.-

No suit, prosecution, or other legal proceeding shall lie against any officer or authority for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or any other rule made thereunder.

20. Power to Remove Difficulties.-

- (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act to remove such difficulty:
Provided no such order shall be made under this section after the expiry of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.
- (2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be, after it is made, before the Mizoram Legislative Assembly.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Mizoram's unique topography and high rainfall variability make water management particularly complex. Despite the abundance of water sources, Mizoram faces challenges in harnessing and managing its water resources effectively due to fragmented data systems, lack of real-time monitoring, and limited inter-departmental coordination.

Currently, water-related data in Mizoram is collected by multiple government departments and agencies using varied standards and formats, resulting in duplication, gaps, and inefficiencies. This impedes data-based planning, disaster preparedness, and climate resilience. The absence of a centralized, scientifically governed data framework also limits transparency and public participation in water governance.

The **Mizoram Water Information and Governance Act, 2026** seeks to address these systemic gaps by establishing a comprehensive legal framework for the collection, integration, standardization, and dissemination of water-related data.

The Act is in alignment with national initiatives such as the National Hydrology Project (NHP) and the India Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS). These efforts are further strengthened by the establishment of the Mizoram State Water Informatics Centre (Mz-SWIC), which received Cabinet approval on 13th February 2025.

A State Data Centre housed within Mz-SWIC currently receives real-time hydro-meteorological data via satellite and GSM from 59 monitoring stations distributed across Mizoram which were set up under the National Hydrology Project.

Should the Bill be enacted, additional data from all departments, agencies, and public authorities in Mizoram involved in the generation, utilization, or management of water-related information will be systematically collected and integrated by the Mz-SWIC. This will encompass data from real-time telemetry stations, manual observation points, legacy datasets, and historical climate and hydrological records. It will create institutional mechanisms to ensure reliable, policy-useful, and accessible water information across government departments and public.

In support of this initiative, the Mizoram Water Resources Information System (Mz-WRIS) portal—intended to provide public access to non-sensitive water resources data specific to the state, is currently under development.

By promoting transparency, scientific decision-making, and climate-adaptive planning, the Act will empower the State to manage its water resources sustainably and equitably. It will also strengthen disaster risk reduction efforts, particularly in flood-prone and landslide-sensitive areas, by enabling timely and accurate hydrological forecasting and providing warning systems.

Thus, beyond being a legislative necessity, the Mizoram Water Information and Governance Act, 2026 stands as a strategic imperative for safeguarding water security and fostering resilient development across the State.

Date: 16th April, 2026.



(P.C. VANLALRUATA)

Minister,
Irrigation & Water Resources Department.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Implementation of the **Mizoram Water Information and Governance Bill, 2026** will involve expenditure for implementation of the provisions of the Bill relating to water information and data management, institutional arrangements, capacity building and digital platforms.

The expenditure shall be incurred subject to the availability of budget provision and after completion of the prescribed administrative, financial and codal formalities.

Dated 16th April, 2026.



(PC. VANLALRUATA)

Minister

Irrigation & Water Resources Department
Government of Mizoram.

MEMORANDUM OF DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Section 18 of the Bill empowers the State Government to make rules for carrying out the provisions of the Bill. The power delegated are normal and not of an exceptional character. It further provides for laying of rules made thereunder before the Legislative Assembly.

Dated Aizawl,
The 1st July, 2026



(P.C. VANLALRUATA)

Minister,
Irrigation & Water Resources Department.