Mizoram
January – December
Current Affairs 2017 part 1

Dr Gaurav Garg

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Founder of Study IQ, India’s largest education platform with over 100 courses
• Mizoram is one of the states of Northeast India, with Aizawl as its capital city. The name is derived from Mi (people), Zo (lofty place, such as a hill) and Ram (land), and thus Mizoram implies "Land of the hill people".

• Within the northeast region, it is the southernmost landlocked state, sharing borders with three of the Seven Sister States, namely Tripura, Assam and Manipur. The state also shares a 722 kilometre border with the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar.
Like several other northeastern states of India, Mizoram was previously part of Assam until 1972, when it was carved out as a Union Territory. It became the 23rd state of India, a step above Union Territory, on 20 February 1987, with Fifty-Third Amendment of Indian Constitution, 1986.
Mizoram's population was 1,091,014, according to a 2011 census.

It is the 2nd least populous state in the country.
Mizoram covers an area of approximately 21,087 square kilometres.

About 91% of the state is forested.
• About 95% of the current population is of diverse tribal origins. This is the highest concentration of tribal people among all states of India, and they are currently protected under Indian constitution as a Scheduled Tribe.

• Mizoram is one of three states of India with a Christian majority (87%).
  (Nagaland, mizoram, meghalaya)
Gujarat has maximum of 12 cities among the top 50 cleanest, followed by Madhya Pradesh with 11 and Andhra Pradesh with eight.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Rank</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Overall Score</th>
<th>Municipal Self Declaration</th>
<th>On-Site Observation</th>
<th>Citizen Feedback</th>
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<td>Gujarat</td>
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## Swacch Sarveskshan 2017

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<td>Uttar Pra...</td>
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<td>430</td>
<td>Katihar</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
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<td>Hardoi</td>
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<tr>
<td>432</td>
<td>Bagaha</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
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<td>433</td>
<td>Bhusawal</td>
<td>Maharasht...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>434</td>
<td>Gonda</td>
<td>Uttar Pra...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lal Thanhawla
INC
Nirbhayay Sharma
Entrepreneurship Development Scheme inaugurated in Mizoram

Mizoram Chief Secretary Lalmalsawma inaugurated the Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (EDS) under the New Economic Development Policy (NEDP).

The EDS could be instrumental in implementation of 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations with minimum harm to the environment

The State government has allocated Rs.2 Crore for New Economic Development Policy (NEDP)
AIR Aizawl honored with prestigious Lelte Award

The All India Radio (AIR) Aizawl has been honoured with the prestigious Lelte Award at an impressive 26th Award Ceremony held at Chanmari YMA Hall in Aizawl.

The award is given in recognition of the role played by AIR Aizawl for the overall progress & development of Mizoram and for promotion of Mizo language & literature and for its contribution in the field of healthcare & education and in promotion of brotherhood.

Lelte is a popular Weekly Magazine in Mizoram which hit the stand since 1983.
Mizoram becomes 27th State to join UDAY

The Government of India and the State of Mizoram signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under the scheme Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) for operational improvement of the State’s Power Distribution Department.

Mizoram would derive an overall net benefit of approximately Rs.198 crores by opting to participate in UDAY, by way of cheaper funds, reduction in AT&C and transmission losses, interventions in energy efficiency, etc. during the period of turnaround.

The reduction in AT&C losses and transmission losses to 15% and 2.50% respectively is likely to bring additional revenue of around Rs.166 crores during the period of turnaround.
Mizoram launches scheme for better treatment of HIV-hit people

The Mizoram Health Minister Lal Thanzara launched the Test and Treat Strategy of the Mizoram state AIDS Control Society (MSACS) to improve treatment for HIV affected people in the state.

Under the Test and Treat Strategy, the HIV affected people would be given free Anti Retrovira Therapy (ART) irrespective of the CD4 count.

ART has been found to be able to resist TB and other bacterial diseases. The majority of the full-blown AIDS affected patients died in the state due to TB infection.

The Test and Treat Strategy is a new initiative of the Centre to combat the HIV/AIDS disease
Mizoram celebrates 31st anniversary of Mizo peace accord

The Mizo Accord was signed on June 30, 1986 ushering in an era of peace after 20 years of violence and disturbance in the state.

It was signed by the Mizo National Front (MNF) leader Laldenga, Mizoram Chief Secretary Lalkhama, and then Union Home Secretary R D Pradhan.

Now – Rajiv GAUBA

The official document entitled Mizoram Accord, 1986, Memorandum of Settlement was the landmark that restored peace and harmony in the state.
A series of discussions were held:

Handing over of all arms, ammunition, and equipments to the Central Government.

Preparation for settlement and rehabilitation of underground personnel.

Conferment of Statehood on the Union Territory of Mizoram.
The State will be at liberty to adopt any one or more language for official purposes

Establishment of a separate university for the state.

The State to have a High Court of its own.

Unlike other accords signed by the Centre with many insurgent outfits earlier, the Mizo Accord became successful making Mizoram upgrade into a full-fledged state from union territory status on February 20, 1987.
Woman elected to Mizoram council of ministers for first time in 30 years

Lalawmpuii Chawngthu became the second woman in Mizoram to be inducted in the state’s council of ministers after a gap of 30 years.

Governor Lt Gen (Retd) Nirbhay Sharma administered the oath of office to Chawngthu at a function at Raj Bhavan.

Chawngkunga, president of the Mizoram Pradesh Youth Congress Committee, was elected from Hrangturzo seat in central Serchhip district in a bye-election.

Lalhlimpuii Hmar was the first woman Minister of State in Mizoram in 1987.
<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pu K.S.Thanga Minister of state</td>
<td>1. Agriculture  &lt;br&gt; 2. Irrigation &amp; Water Resources  &lt;br&gt; 3. Land Resources, Soil and Water Conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pi Vanlalawmpuii chawngthu Minister of state</td>
<td>1. Cooperation  &lt;br&gt; 2. Sericulture  &lt;br&gt; 3. Fisheries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ngangom Sarat Singh appointed as member of the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) for Manipur and Mizoram

Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R.K. Singh administered oath of office and secrecy to Shri Ngangom Sarat Singh, on his appointment as member of the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) for Manipur and Mizoram.

The JERC is a two-member Commission, each member representing the respective participating State.

He has been appointed as the member from the Manipur side for a period of 5 years, with effect from the date of his taking charge of the post or till he attains the age of 65 years.
India and Bangladesh have decided to construct bridge along Mizoram Border

India and Bangladesh have decided to construct a bridge over Mizoram's Khawthlangtuipui river (also known as Karnaphuli river) to facilitate trade and improve communication between the two neighbours.

The decision was taken after officials from both the side met at Tlabung town in Mamit district of Mizoram.

The Mamit district is situated adjacent to Khagrachari district of Southeast Bangladesh.
Mizoram has a 318 km unfenced border with Bangladesh. In March 2017, the Union Government had announced that half of the 4,096-km long border India shares with Bangladesh has been fenced.

The remaining half will be fenced by 2019 deadline. India and Bangladesh share a 4,096 km land boundary, largest among the international boundaries that India shares with its neighbours.

The border runs along five states, West Bengal (2,216.7 km), Assam (263 km), Meghalaya (443 km), Tripura (856 km) and Mizoram (318 km).
Government awards Contracts for completion of Kaladan project in Myanmar.

Government has awarded a Rs 1,600-crore contract for constructing 109-km road connecting Paletwa river terminal to Zorinpui in Mizoram border as a part of the $484-million Kaladan multi-modal transport (KMTT) projects in Myanmar which will offer connectivity to Mizoram.

Kaladan multi-modal transport projects was the first major project undertaken by the Indian government in Myanmar.

India has finished constructing Sittwe port in the trouble-prone Rakhine state of Myanmar.
Also, the extension of the Aizawl-Saiha National Highway by 90 km to the international border at Zorinpui at the Indian side is nearing completion.

In addition, four-laning of the 300 km Aizawl-Tuipang highway to ensure faster movement of goods between Sittwe and Aizawl is also nearing completion.

**Kaladan multi-modal transport (KMTT)**

It is a multi-modal transport project having three different stretches involving shipping, Inland Water and road transport stretches.

Being administered by Ministry of External Affairs

GoI is funding the project.

Will connect Mizoram to Bay of Bengal
Project seeks to facilitate connectivity between the mainland India and the landlocked North Eastern States through maritime shipping, inland waterways and roads of Myanmar

The link between landlocked north eastern states and Myanmar will lead to:

Enhanced trade and commerce across the border

Enable cultural and social integration at the regional level
Background:

Agreement was signed in 2008

Construction began in 2010

But inadequate funds and poor planning led to delays. In 2015, the present government revised the budget estimates by nearly six times and has involved the State-owned Ircon Infrastructure and Services Ltd as consultant with an objective to complete the project in 2019.

As per the terms of the framework agreement, India should also set up an SEZ at Sittwe.

The setting up of SEZ at Sittwe is important to promote Indian investment in the region which has overwhelming Chinese influence.
The completion of KMTT project will play a major role in economic development of the North-East India and it will improve the bilateral relations between India and Myanmar.

When completed, the KMTT will shorten the current time taken to transport goods from Kolkata to Mizoram by three-four days, and the distance by around 950 km.

KMMT is hailed as “Future gateway to South East Asia”
Ban on bird, pig import into Mizoram

Deputy commissioners of all the districts in Mizoram, bordering Myanmar and Bangladesh, have issued order banning import of bird, chicken, pig and piglet from the neighbouring countries.

Deputy commissioners of Champhai, Aizawl, Lunglei, Lawngtlai, Siaha and Mamit issued orders after receiving a warning from the Centre saying that bird's flu has been prevalent in China.

Veterinarians said the import of pigs and piglets was also banned as pigs are carrier of the avian influenza virus.
The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved North East Road Network Connectivity Project (NERNCP) Phase I for development of 403 kms of National Highways in Meghalaya and Mizoram.

Out of total 403 km, approximately 351 km will be in developed in Mizoram and 52 km in Meghalaya. The project will be executed in EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) Mode.

The implementation of projects will start from the financial year 2017-18. The civil works are expected to be completed by 2021 and maintenance works by 2025.
The projects will encourage sub-regional socio-economic development by improving infrastructure in Mizoram and Meghalaya. It will also enhance connectivity with inter-state roads and International Borders.

The work for development of two lane standards under the scheme NERNCP Phase I will be financially supported by loan assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
12th Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant held in Vairengte.

The twelfth edition Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2017 has begun at Vairengte in Mizoram.

Vairengte houses Indian Army’s elite Counter-Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School.

The first joint Nomadic Elephant was held in 2004 and since then it is annually held. It seeks to promote military associations between India and Mongolia.

The two week exercise (from 5 to 18 April 2017), is aimed at training the troops in Counter Insurgency & Counter Terrorism Operations (CICT Ops) under Nations mandate.
Free Movement Rules Along Mizoram-Myanmar Border To Be Tightened

The Home Ministry is planning to regulate 'free movement' of people along the border with Myanmar in Mizoram in the north-east.

The 'free movement regime', which allows Mizo people living in Myanmar to enter Mizoram up to 16 km, has been misused by terrorists and smugglers.

India shares a 404-km-long border with Myanmar in Mizoram.
Mizoram has highest number of clouded leopards in Southeast Asia

Mizoram's Dampa Tiger Reserve now holds the distinction of housing the highest number of clouded leopards in Southeast Asia.

The density of population of clouded leopards, locally known as 'Kelral', is 5.14 per 100 sq km in the reserve, situated along the Mizoram-Bangladesh-Tripura.

The area of the reserve is around 80 sq km, the density of population of marbled cats, also known as 'Sanghar', is 5.03 per 100 sq km.

The state's Environment, Forests and Climate Change Department placed several camera traps at different places across the Dampa Tiger Reserve, which captured the clouded leopards 84 times and the marbled cats 36 times.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Name of National Park</th>
<th>Year of Notification</th>
<th>Total Area (km²)</th>
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<td>2002</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>250</td>
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</table>
Centre approves 464 projects costing of Rs 14,124 crore for 8 smart cities in NE

After reviewing the progress of urban missions in the eight north eastern states in Guwahati, Union minister of state for housing and urban affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri said that, the Centre has selected eight smart cities in the region and 464 projects have been approved for these cities so far.

The selected smart cities of the NE region are – Guwahati (Assam), Imphal (Manipur), Agartala (Tripura), Namchi (Sikkim), Kohima (Nagaland), Passighat (Arunachal Pradesh), Aizawl (Mizoram) and Gangtok (Sikkim).

42 towns in NE states have become Open Defection Free (ODF) under the Swach Bharat Mission.
12 towns of the region have been included in the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation for Urban Transformation (AMRUT) for providing water taps to all households besides improving water supply to the normative level of 135 litres per capita per day.

12 NE towns included in Amrut are – Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh), Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Nagaon and Silchar (Assam), Imphal (Manipur), Shillong (Meghalaya), Aizawl (Mizoram), Dimapur and Kohima (Nagaland), Gangtok (Sikkim) and Agartala (Tripura).
KS Thanga Sworn in as New Mizoram Minister

Senior Congress leader KS Thanga was sworn in as a new minister in the Lal Thanhawla government.

Mizoram Governor Lt Gen Nirbhay Sharma (Retd) administered the oath of office and secrecy to Thanga in the swearing-in ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan.

With Thanga, Lal Thanhawla government has now 11 minister. Mizoram can have maximum of 12 ministers.

Thanga has been given the rank of a minister of state.
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<td>2. Sericluture</td>
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<td>3. Fisheries</td>
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2. Vigilance  
3. General Administration Department  
4. Secretariat Administration Department  
5. Personnel & Administrative Reforms  
6. District Council and Minority Affairs  
7. Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department |
| 2  | Pu R. Lalziriana Cabinet Minister        | 1. Home (including Prisons & Sainik Welfare Resettlement)  
2. Power and Electricity  
3. Rural Development  
4. Excise & Narcotics |
| 3  | Pu R. Romawia Cabinet Minister           | 1. Higher & Technical Education  
2. Art & Culture  
3. Land Revenue & Settlement  
4. Parliamentary Affairs |
| 4  | Pu Laksawta Cabinet Minister             | 1. Finance  
2. Planning & Programme Implementation  
3. Taxation  
4. Law & Judicial |
| 5  | Pu H. Rohluna Cabinet Minister           | 1. School Education  
2. Commerce and Industries (including Directorate of Mining & Mineral Resources)  
3. Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Portfolio</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 5  | Pu H. Rohluna       | 1. School Education  
2. Commerce and Industries (including Directorate of Mining & Mineral Resources)  
3. Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship |
| 6  | Pu Zodintluanga     | 1. Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation  
2. Sports & Youth Services  
3. Public Health Engineering  
4. ICT |
| 7  | Pu P.C.Lalthanliana | 1. Horticulture  
2. Local Administration Department  
3. Social Welfare |
| 8  | Pu John Rotluangliana | 1. Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs  
2. Transport  
3. Tourism |
| 9  | Pu Lal Thanzara     | 1. Information & Public Relations  
2. Health & Family Welfare  
3. Public Works Department |
India: State of Mizoram pledges to install 80 MW of solar in 2017

In order to meet its 10.5 % renewable purchase obligation by FY 2021-22, the government of the Indian state of Mizoram has adopted a solar power policy that envisages deployment of 80 MW of solar projects in 2017.
Mizoram to set up 20 MW solar park

Mizoram's Solar Power Project Approval Committee (SPPAC) has approved the proposal for setting up of a 20 MW solar park.

The project will be implemented by the state power and electricity department and Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA).

The Solar Power Policy of Mizoram, 2017 envisaged all government office buildings should harness solar energy in their building premises.
Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA) is an autonomous body established by the Government of Mizoram with its Headquarter at Aizawl, Mizoram.

The Agency became operational in 1999, exclusively to undertake all programmes in the field of Non-Conventional & Renewable Energy Sources.

Apart from this, ZEDA is also the Nodal Agency, which interacts with the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, New Delhi, to implement the centrally funded and sponsored scheme, in the relevant field.
27th Death Anniversary of Laldenga Observed in Mizoram

The 27th death anniversary of the legendary Mizo leader Laldenga was observed in Aizawl.

He was Born on July 11, 1927 at south Mizoram’s Pukpui village in Lunglei district.

He converted the MNFF into a political party – the Mizo National Front (MNF) on October 22, 1961 with its main object to struggle for independence from the Indian Union.

He signed Mizo Peace Accord on June 30, 1986 ushering in peace to the state and became its first chief minister after Mizoram was elevated to a state in 1987.
Treated for terminal cancer in New York, he died in London in 1990 while returning to Mizoram.

He was accorded a state funeral in Aizawl and is the only person till date to be accorded state funeral in Mizoram.
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