



Background and Status of Mizo Language

Prepared By :

**Eighth Schedule Study Group
Under Mizo Language Development Board
Department of School Education, Govt. of Mizoram**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. INTRODUCTION	5
B. GENERAL BACKGROUND OF MIZO LANGUAGE	7
1. The Mizo language	7
2. Origin of Mizo language	8
3. Structure of Mizo language	9
4. Rationale for the Selection of the Mizo language	9
C. PRESENT STATUS OF MIZO LANGUAGE	11
1. It is a State Official Language	11
2. Increasing Number of Mizo Speakers	12
2.1 <i>People's Linguistic Survey of India (PLSI)</i>	12
2.2 <i>UNESCO's View</i>	13
2.3 <i>Ethnologue's View</i>	13
2.3 <i>Census of India's View</i>	14
2.4 <i>Number of Mizos living outside India</i>	16
3. Growth of Mizo Literature:	17
3.1 <i>Increase in the number of books published</i>	17
3.2 <i>Recognition for Writing and Reading Excellence</i>	18
3.2 <i>Progress in Education</i>	19
4. Inclusion in Google Translate	19
5. Recognized as a Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman Language	20
6. Establishment of the Mizo Language Development Board	21
7. Geographical Coverage of the Mizo Language	21
7.1 <i>Core Area:</i>	21
7.2 <i>Regional Spread within India</i>	22
7.3 <i>International Coverage</i>	22
7.4 <i>Global Diaspora</i>	22
7.5 <i>Functional Coverage</i>	22
D. MIZO LANGUAGE AND THE EIGHTH SCHEDULE	23
1. Passed by the Mizoram Legislative Assembly	23
2. The Church Has Also Taken Initiative	24

3.	Mizoram Law Commission	24
4.	Collective Support from Various Organizations	24
4.1	<i>Central Young Mizo Association (CYMA)</i>	25
4.2	<i>Mizoram Upa Pawl (MUP)</i>	25
4.3	<i>Mizo Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl (MHIP)</i>	25
4.4	<i>Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP)</i>	26
4.5	<i>Mizo Students Union (MSU)</i>	26
4.6	<i>Mizo Academy of Letters (MAL)</i>	26
4.7	<i>Mizo Writers Association (MWA)</i>	26
4.8	<i>Delhi Mizo Zirlai Pawl (DMZP)</i>	27
4.9	<i>Mizo Literature and Language Teachers' Academy (MILLTA)</i>	27
4.10	<i>Mara Youth Association (MYA) and Young Lai Association (YLA)</i>	27
4.11	<i>Central Young Chakma Association and Young Bru Association</i>	27
4.12	<i>Bru Students Association and Mizoram Chakma Students Union</i>	28
4.13	<i>Hmar Students Association, Lai Students Association, Mara Students Organisation, Bawm Students Association, Pang Zirlai Pawl, Ranglong Students Association, Siansinpawlp</i>	28
4.14	<i>Inclusion in Political Party Manifestos</i>	28
5.	Application for Inclusion in the Eighth Schedule	
E.	CONCLUSION	29
F.	APPENDICES	30

A. INTRODUCTION

The Mizo language is the official language of Mizoram, India. It is spoken by nearly two million people. Mizo language users reside across 26 states and 7 Union Territories of India, in addition to this Mizo language users also resides different countries worldwide. The number of Mizo language users are steadily increasing, and the language is making continuously progressing in the field of literature, music, and education.

The Mizo language is used as the primary language by almost all people living in Mizoram, and it also serves as a *lingua franca* for communication among Mizo communities in neighboring states. Mizo has been included in Google Translate and is recognized as one of the languages under the Sahitya Akademy's for awarding Bhasha Samman Award. To promote the language, the Mizo Language Development Board was established on 29th March 2022, and a resolution in this regard was unanimously passed in the Mizoram Legislative Assembly to include it in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. At present, it is among the 38 languages seeking inclusion in the eighth schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Cultural associations, all NGO and all political parties in Mizoram have actively supported this initiative, and some have taken significant steps toward achieving this goal.

The Mizo language has many qualities and merits for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, and these are discussed in detail in this paper.

B. GENERAL BACKGROUND OF MIZO LANGUAGE

The origin and history of the Mizo language can be explained in detail and at great length. However, for easier understanding, only a general overview is presented here.

1. THE MIZO LANGUAGE:

Linguists classify the Mizo language under the Tibeto-Burman group. According to G.A. Grierson in *Linguistic Survey of India*, Volume III – Tibeto-Burman Family, the Lushei-Duhlian language is placed within the “*Kuki-Chin group*” under the Tibeto-Burman family.¹ UNESCO and Ethnologue also state that the Mizo language belongs to the Kuki-Chin group of the Tibeto-Burman family under the Sino-Tibetan language family. Within the Kuki-Chin group, Mizo is further classified under Central Kuki-Chin.

The Tibeto-Burman languages are divided into many sub-groups, and among them, the Mizo language is placed under the Central Kuki-Chin group. Within the Kuki-Chin group, there are 54 languages in total: 12 in Central Kuki-Chin, 9 in Northwestern Kuki-Chin, 27 in Peripheral Kuki-Chin, and 5 in Maraic Kuki-Chin. In addition to these, there is also Chin (Thaiphum), which does not belong to any of the main sub-families. According to *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, among the 12 languages under the Kuki-Chin group, Mizo is included, and under Mizo, five more groups are further classified.

The Census of India classifies Indian languages into Scheduled and Non-Scheduled languages. There are 22 Scheduled languages (recognized in the Constitution as official languages). Including Non-Scheduled languages, India is estimated to have a total of 121 major languages. The classification of these languages and the number of their speakers are presented as follows.

FAMILY-WISE GROUPING OF THE 121 SCHEDULED AND NON-SCHEDULED LANGUAGES			
Language families	Number of Languages	Persons who returned the languages as their mother tongue	Percentage to Population
1. Indo-European			
(a) Indo-Aryan	21	94,50,52,555	78.05
(b) Iranian	1	21,677	0.00
(c) Germanic	1	2,59,678	0.02
2. Dravidian	17	23,78,40,116	19.64
3. Austro-Asiatic	14	1,34,93,080	1.11
4. Tibeto-Burmese	66	1,22,57,382	1.01
5. Semito-Hamitic	1	54,947	0.00
Total	121	1,20,89,79,435	99.85²

1. GA Grierson. *Linguistic Survey of India*. Vol III - Tobeto Burman Family. Part 3 p 135
2. Census of India - Language Atlas of India 2011

2. ORIGIN OF MIZO LANGUAGE:

As mentioned earlier, the Mizo language has long been used as a means of verbal communication among Mizos communities and sub-tribes. Although it is difficult to trace exactly how old it is, it is believed that it has been in use since the very beginning of the existence of the Mizo people.

What we now call the Mizo language was earlier known by the name of one Mizo clan, as the “Lusei language.” Even earlier, the “Lusei language” was known as the “Duhlian language.” The Duhlian language is generally regarded as the original form. G.A. Grierson, the author of Linguistic Survey of India, also wrote that Duhlian was the main language used by the Lusei. He stated:

“Their name is commonly spelt ‘Lushai’ but the proper mode, which is employed when speaking of their language is Lushai. They usually called themselves ‘Duhlian’ and their language ‘Duhlian ṭawng’.”³

The Mizo ancestors may have had their own symbols and writing system, as it is often said by elders, “The Mizo writing was written on leather, and dogs ate it while it was in use.” J.V. Hluna also mentioned that “The Mizos had their own writing system, written on leather, but it was lost during their long migrations.” However, the alphabet that we use today did not exist during the time of our ancestors.

J.H. Lorrain (Pu Buanga) and F.W. Savidge (Sap Upa), who worked under the Arthington Aborigines Mission, entered Mizoram through Sairang on 11 January 1894. While they were in Silchar in 1893, the two had already developed the Mizo alphabet, “A, AW, B” from 1894 onwards, they began teaching it to the Mizos. For writing the Mizo language, they adopted the Hunterian system of orthography (also known as the Hunterian system of spelling), which uses the Roman script based on pronunciation. The “A, AW, B” they created was first taught to the Mizos in April of that same year. The alphabet they developed at that time was as follows:⁴

A (aw)	A	B	D	E
F	G	H	I	J (chei)
K	LM	N	O	P
R	ST	Ṭ (ṭhaw)	U	V
Z	CH (chaw)			

The “A, AW, B” alphabet originally created by Pu Buanga and Sap Upa was later refined into the form we use today by the Welsh missionary Zosaphara (Edwin Rowlands).

A	AW	B	CH	D	E	F	G	NG
H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
R	S	T	Ṭ	U	V	Z ⁵		

3. GA Grierson. Linguistic Survey of India. Vol III - Tobeto Burman Family. Part 3 p 135
4. Lalthangliana, B. Mizo Literature (Mizo Thu leh Hla). RTP Press. Second Edition 2004. p-94
5. JV Hluna, Prof. Mizoram Welsh Missionary te chanchin. Synod Literature and Publication Board. 2016. p-25

After Zosaphara refined the Mizo alphabet, there was significant progress in literature and music, many books were published, and Mizo also became a subject that could be studied up to the Ph.D. level in educational institutions.

3. STRUCTURE OF MIZO LANGUAGE:

The Mizo language is a lovely language with a well-developed and systematic structure. Its structure can be discussed in detail, but its general features are as follows:

- The Mizo language is what is called a ‘monosyllabic language’. Generally, its root words usually consist of only one syllable.
- The Mizo language is an ‘SOV (subject, object, verb) language’. This means that in a sentence, the subject is followed by the object, and the object is then followed by the verb.
- The Mizo language is a tonal language, and although the spelling may remain the same, the meaning and reference often change according to tone.
- Another distinctive feature of the Mizo language is that even among identical root words, the tone can cause major differences in meaning, and sometimes even with the same tone and same word, the meanings may be completely different. Such words are called *homophones*.
- Mizo words also have many unique and rich characteristics. Especially, where other languages may use only one word to express a similar action, Mizo uses many different words depending on the exact manner of action. For example, while in English the word “carry” is expressed by a single term, in Mizo it changes according to how something is carried. These include: *keng, hum, khai, (kuta) chawi, phur, chhipchhuan, (tui) chawi, ak, pua, pu, kawt, pawm, bat, hmathlak*, and many others. This clearly shows one special feature of the Mizo language, which is very unique. Its ability to describe actions very precisely according to context.

Besides these, there are many more aspects of the structure and unique features of the Mizo language that can be discussed. Its strengths, richness, and distinctiveness compared to other languages are many. At the same time, it is also true that there are areas where it may be limited, imperfect, or less developed compared to other major languages.

4. RATIONALE FOR THE SELECTION OF THE MIZO LANGUAGE:

Under the Mizo community, there are many sub-groups, and these different groups have their own distinct languages. While some of these languages are no longer widely used, others are still actively spoken today. The present collective decision to propose the Mizo language for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule is based on several reasons, the most important of which are as follows:

- (a) The Mizo language was declared the *State Official Language* in 1974.

- (b) It is used as the main *lingua franca* by all Mizo communities living both within India and outside the country.
 - (c) It has been recognized as a regional language by the Sahitya Akademy (National Academy of Letters).
 - (d) Among the various Mizo ethnic languages, Mizo language has the largest number of users.
 - (e) In the field of education, Mizo is available as a subject of study up to the Ph.D. level.
 - (f) Mizo language users are found in various states of India as well as in different countries.
 - (g) Mizoram is the first and the only state which have achieved 100% literacy rate.
 - (h) Among the 249 languages available on Google Translate, Mizo is one of the included languages.
-

C. PRESENT STATUS OF MIZO LANGUAGE

We believe that the present status of the Mizo language is sufficiently strong contender for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Among the various languages of India that have not yet been included in the Scheduled list, it is considered that Mizo language is one of the most deserving language. There are several reasons for this, which are as follows:

1. IT IS A STATE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:

When Mizoram was still a Union Territory, during the 6th sitting of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly on 10th October 1975, the then Chief Minister, Pu Ch. Chhunga, with the permission of the Speaker Pu H. Thansanga, introduced the “*Mizoram Official Language Bill, 1974*” in the House. It was discussed on 11th October 1975 and subsequently passed.⁶

Earlier, on 9th May 1975, this Act was published in the *Mizoram Official Gazette (The Mizoram Gazette, Extraordinary, Vol. IV, Aizawl, Friday 9th May, 1975, Valsakha 19, S.E. 1897, Issue No. 17)*.⁷ According to Section 34 of the Government of Union Territory Act, 1963, it was stated that the Mizo language will be used as the official language of Mizoram:

The Mizo language shall, subject to the provisions of section 34 of the Government of Union Territory Act, 1963, be the language to be used for all or any of the official purposes of the Union Territory and different dates may be appointed for different purposes or for different areas in the Union Territory.

At the same time, Section 4 stated that English could also be used for official purposes: *Notwithstanding anything contained in section 3, as from the commencement of this Act, the English language may be used for all or any of the official purposes of the Union Territory.*

To make the Official Language Act, 1974 more effective and practically applicable, a further notification was issued in the official gazette on 15th August 1987. The details of that notification (The Mizoram Gazette, Extra Ordinary, Vol XVI, Aizawl, Friday 14.8.1987 Sravana 23, SE 1909 Issue Ni 84 (B) published by Authority)⁸ are as follows:

-
- 6. Attached : Mizoram Legislative Assembly Proceedings October 10 and 11, 1975
 - 7. Attached : The Mizoram Gazette, Extra Ordinary, Vol IV Aizawl, Friday 9th May, 1975 Valsakha 19, S.E 1897, Issue No 17
 - 8. Attached : The Mizoram Gazette, Extra Ordinary, Vol XVI, Aizawl, Friday 14.8.1987 Sravana 23, SE 1909 Issue Ni 84 (B) published by Authority

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 3 of the Mizoram Official Act, 1974, the Governor of Mizoram is pleased to order that with effect from 15th August, 1987, language shall be used for all the official purposes of the Government of Mizoram at all levels to followings : -

Correspondence with Central and other State/Union Territory Government, their offices, Agencies and public/private undertakings may be in the English language.

The business of the Assembly shall be transacted in the official language or languages as prescribed under the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of the Business in Mizoram Legislative Assembly.

On 21st June 2021, the Government of Mizoram, through the General Administration Department (GAD), issued an Office Circular referring to the earlier 1987 notification under the Mizoram Official Language Act, 1974. It stated that all government notifications should also be issued in the Mizo language (Mizo version) so that the general public can easily understand them. According to the circular, it was stated as follows:

It may pointed out that as empowered by Section 3 of the Mizoram Official Language Act, 1974, the Governor of Mizoram had already notified vide No.LJD 35/87/2 dt. 14.08.1987 (Mizoram Gazette Extra Ordinary Vol.XVI dt..148.1987) that the Mizo language shall be used in all the official purposes of the Government of Mizoram at all level subject certain conditions.

In light of the above, all Departments/Offices under the Government of Mizoram are advised to take necessary steps for issue of both the English and Mizo versions of the Government Instruments, Notifications, Office Memoranda, etc which are intended for majority of the Government officials or the general public.⁹

2. INCREASING NUMBER OF MIZO SPEAKERS:

The number of people who speak the Mizo language is steadily increasing, and it is a rapidly developing language. There are several agencies who are studying the Mizo language and conducting research work in this field, and their general views on Mizo language are as follows:

2.1 People's Linguistic Survey of India (PLSI)

The People's Linguistic Survey of India (PLSI) has classified the Mizo language as a 'rising / thriving language.' In this regard, Ganesh N. Devy, Chairman of PLSI and founder of the Bhasha Research and Publication Centre, stated that "the number of writers has increased, and these writers are actively producing literature in their own language, which has greatly contributed to its growth."¹⁰

9. Attached : Office Circular, General Administration Department, 22 June, 2021

10. Devy, GN, editor, The Languages of Mizoram. Orient BlackSwan. 2018

PLSI published a detailed study on different Mizo ethnic languages spoken in Mizoram titled '*The Languages of Mizoram*' in 2018. According to this publication, Mizo is the most widely spoken language in Mizoram, with 6,74,756 speakers recorded in the 2001 Census. It represents about 77% of the population of the state.

The People's Linguistic Survey of India (PLSI) is a linguistic survey launched in 2010 in order to update existing knowledge about the languages spoken in the modern republic of India. The survey was organized by the NGO Bhasha Research and Publication Centre, Baroda, founded by G. N. Devy, a social activist, and was conducted by 3500 volunteers, including 2000 language experts, social historians. It has identified 780 languages in India. The 35,000 page survey is being published in 50 volumes. The first six volumes were released at the Bhasha Vasudha Global Languages Conference in Vadodara on January 7, 2012.

2.2 UNESCO's View:

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) classifies the world's languages into six categories: Safe, Vulnerable, Definitely Endangered, Severely Endangered, Critically Endangered, and Extinct.

The Mizo language has been placed in the 'Vulnerable' category, which is the highest level among languages that are considered at risk. UNESCO made this classification based on the number of Mizo speakers recorded in the 2001 Census, and accordingly placed it under this category.

2.3 Ethnologue's View:

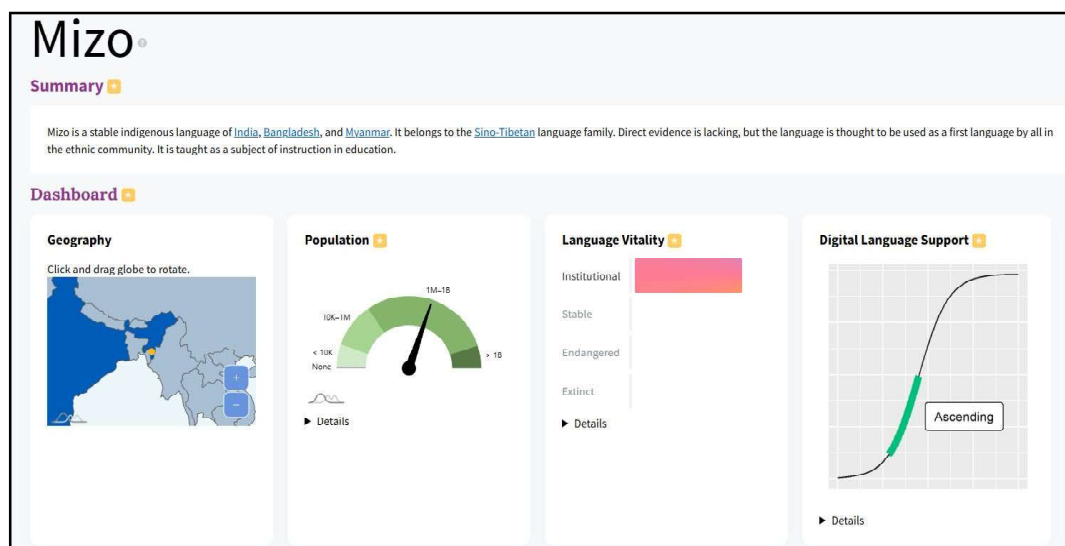
One of the most well-known and reliable organizations in the field of linguistic studies is the *Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL)*, headquartered in Dallas, Texas, USA. This organization regularly publishes a comprehensive reference work on world languages titled *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*. Since 1951, SIL has been continuously publishing Ethnologue as a major source for global language data.

According to Ethnologue, the Mizo language has approximately 8,31,000 speakers in India and a total of 8,43,750 speakers worldwide. It also noted that Mizo is known by other names such as *Duhlian*, *Hualngo*, and *Lushai*. The ISO language code assigned to Mizo is ISO 639-3: lus.

Ethnologue evaluates languages using the EGIDS (Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale) and places the Mizo language in Category 4 (Educational). This category is defined as:

Languages that are widely used and fully alive, with a standardized form. They are supported by education and show continued growth in literature and usage.

Ethnologue also states that the Mizo language is a growing and developing language, with strong vitality and increasing institutional support.



Ethnologue's description of the status of the Mizo language

2.3 Census of India's View:

According to the Census of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the number of Mizo language speakers recorded in the 2011 Census was 8,30,846, which constitutes 75.72% of the total population of Mizoram.

Out of the 28 states of India, Mizo language speakers are found in 26 states. Only two states—Kerala and Telangana—do not have Mizo language speakers. Among the 9 Union Territories, Mizo language speakers are found in 7, while Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep do not have Mizo-speaking populations.¹¹

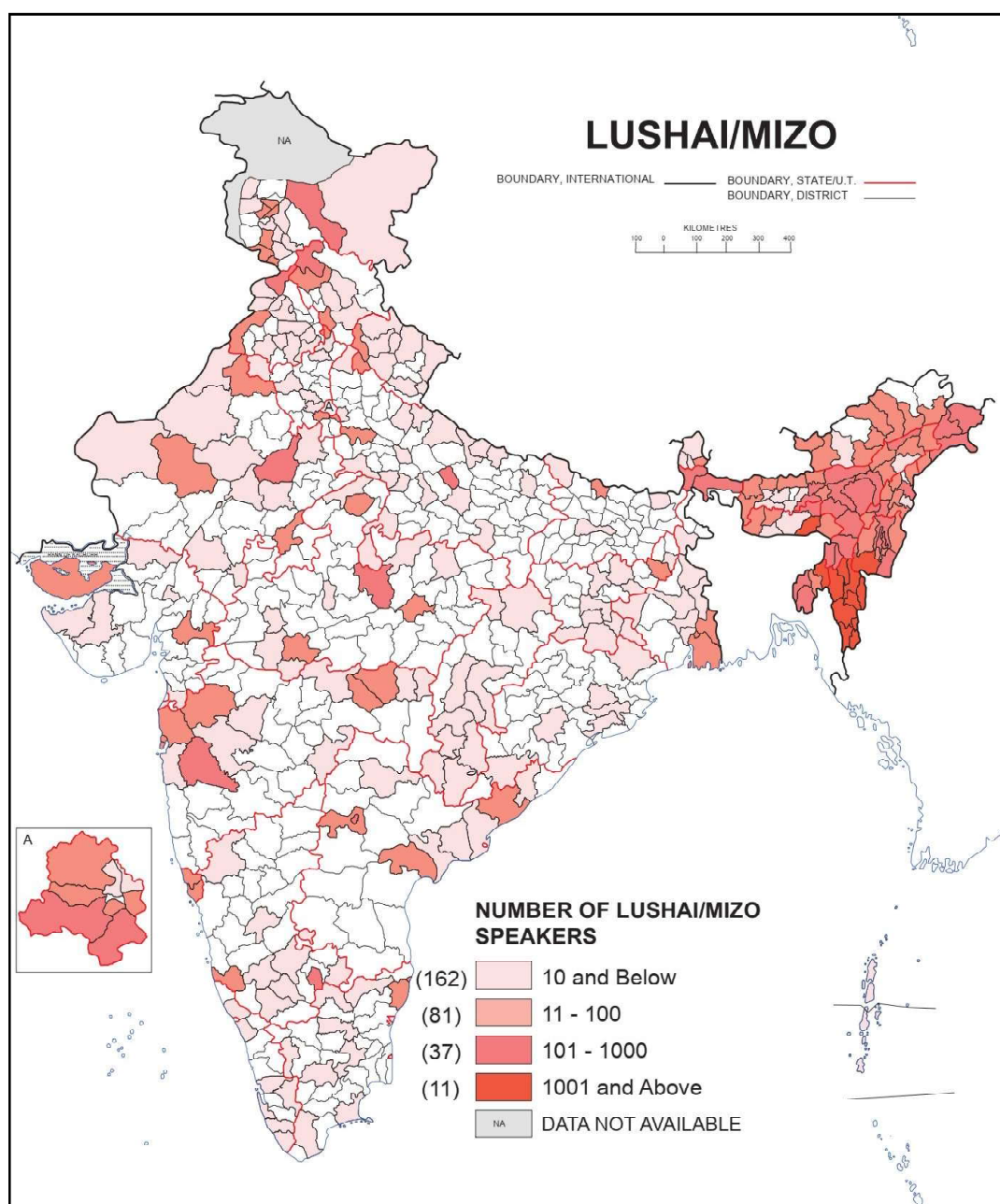
This shows that Mizo speakers are widely distributed across India, indicating the broad geographical spread of the Mizo language users.

According to the Census of India data, Mizoram has the largest number of Mizo language speakers, with 8,02,763 speakers. Manipur comes next with 6,500 speakers, followed by Tripura in third place with 5,639 speakers. Meghalaya ranks fourth with 4,455 speakers, and Assam is fifth with 4,006 speakers. Puducherry has the smallest number of speakers, with only two male speakers.

Nevertheless, the Mizo language users are widely distributed across India and is spoken in almost all States and Union Territories. Therefore, it is quite appropriate and justified that Mizo should be included among the Scheduled (official) languages of India.

Based on the population growth rate between the 2001 and 2011 censuses (23.47%), it is estimated that by 2021, the population of Mizoram would have increased by about 2,57,515, making the total population approximately 1,354,721. If 75.72% of this population are Mizo language speakers, it can be estimated that around 1,025,795 people will be using the Mizo language.

11. Attached : Census of India - Language Atlas of India 2011 - Distribution of Mizo Language



Census of India's presentation of the distribution of Mizo language speakers

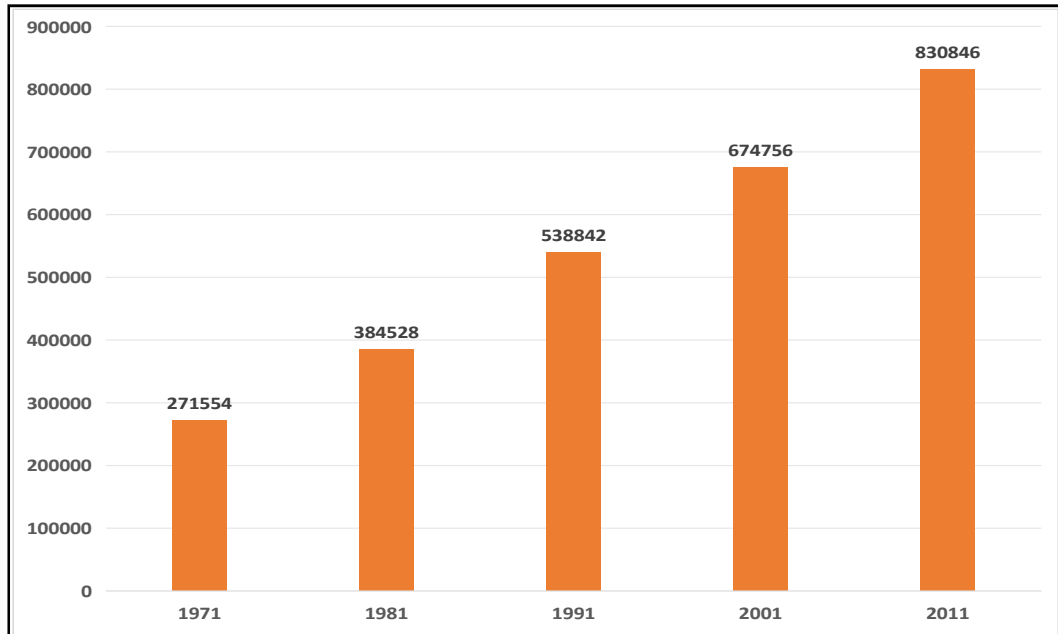
Census data shows that the number of Mizo language speakers has been steadily increasing in every census. In 1971, there were 2,71,554 speakers; in 1981, 3,84,528 speakers; in 1991, 5,38,842 speakers; in 2001, 6,74,756 speakers; and in 2011, 8,30,846 speakers.

Moreover, Mizo ethnic tribes living in Mizoram such as the Mara, Lai, Hmar, Paite, who use their own ethnic language can also speak fluently in Mizo language. If these are included, the total number of Mizo language users would be even higher than the figures recorded in the census.

According to the Census of India, the Mizo language shows a wide geographical distribution across India. Mizo speakers are found in almost all States and Union Territories, with the highest concentration in Mizoram, followed by smaller but sig-

nificant numbers in neighbouring states such as Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Assam. Even in distant regions, including Union Territories like Puducherry, Mizo speakers are recorded.

This distribution pattern clearly indicates that the Mizo language is not confined to a single region but is spread widely across the country, demonstrating its strong presence and national-level significance.



Census of India's presentation of the growth in the number of Mizo language speakers

2.4 Number of Mizos living outside India:

Not only in India, but a large number of Mizos also live outside the country. Although these Mizos belong to different sub-groups and speak different dialects, they all use the Mizo language as their main means of communication (common language).

According to census-based data presented in the book '*Hun Inher Kara Zofate*', written by F. Vanlalrochana and awarded Book of the Year 2024 by the Mizo Academy of Letters, the total number of Mizos living in seven Indian states and two neighbouring countries, Myanmar and Bangladesh, is 2,298,275, distributed as follows:

Mizoram	9,27,695
Manipur	4,78,116
Tripura	73,178
Assam	50,064
Meghalaya	21,180
Nagaland	18,768
West Bengal	197
Myanmar	6,52,586
Bangladesh	76,491
Total	22,98,275¹²

12. Vanlalrochana, F. *Hun Inher Kara Zofate*. Fraser Media and Publication. Aizawl, Mizoram. ISBN - 978-81-978626-1-8

At the same time, in the book '*Mizo Ṭawng: Ṭobul, Dinmun leh Hmasawn Dan*' (Mizo Language: Origin, Status, and Development) written by H. Laldinmawia, the estimated number of people who use the Mizo language daily outside India is also given as follows:

United States of America	– about 4,000
Israel	– about 2,000
United Kingdom	– about 350
Australia	– about 700
Singapore	– about 1,500
China	– about 500 ¹³

Thus, it can be said that the total number of Mizo language speakers world-wide is at least around 2.3 million.

3. GROWTH OF MIZO LITERATURE:

Mizo literature is steadily growing in various fields—such as the publication of books, the increasing number of people who can read and write in Mizo, and in the field of education. This can be explained as follows:

3.1 Increase in the number of books published:

In the field of book publication, the number of works written in the Mizo language is continuously increasing. The Mizo Academy of Letters (MAL) regularly records and documents the number of books published. However, in their records, church publications and souvenirs, religious books, and reprints are generally not included.

Although the record may not be completely exhaustive, the general trend of book publication in Mizo language over a period of eleven years shows a steady increase, as presented below:

2010	– 170 books
2011	– 183 books
2012	– 135 books
2013	– 161 books
2014	– 179 books
2015	– 140 books
2016	– 143 books
2017	– 131 books
2018	– 120 books
2019	– 231 books
2020	– 137 books
2021	– 170 books
2022	– 173 books
2023	– 170 books
2024	– 215 books
2025	– 190 books

13. Laldinmawia, H. *Mizo Ṭawng Ṭobul, Dinmun leh Hmasawn Dan*. Human Resource Development Board, Department of School Education, Govt. of Mizoram. 2022. ISBN -978-81-954605-7-1

This data clearly shows a consistent and healthy growth in the number of books published in the Mizo language over the years, reflecting the expanding vitality of Mizo literature.

This study deals only with original works written in the Mizo language. Even if similar works exist, only those originally written in Mizo are included, and translations from other languages are not taken into consideration.

At the same time, the field of journalism is also fairly wide. According to the records of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) as of January 24, 2022, the number of registered Mizo publications is as follows:

Dailies	: 58
Tri/Bi-weeklies	: 15
Weeklies	: 44
Fortnightlies	: 3
Monthlies	: 65
Quarterlies	: 8
Annuals	: 2
Others	: 11
Total	: 206

Besides these, almost every locality and village also has its own local or in-house journals. When all of these are taken together, it can be said that the number of Mizo newspapers and journals is quite large and impressive.

3.2 Recognition for Writing and Reading Excellence:

On 20th May 2025, Mizoram was recognized as a fully literary state, the first in the country to achieve this distinction. The announcement was made by Mizoram Chief Minister Pu Lalduhoma.

The ceremony was held at Mizoram University Auditorium to celebrate Mizoram attaining the fully literary state status. The event was graced by the presence of Pu Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Education, Government of India; Dr. Vanlalhlana, Minister of School Education, Higher & Technical Education, Mizoram; and Pu Khilli Ram Meena, IAS, Chief Secretary to the Government of Mizoram, among others.

Under the Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) program initiated by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, Mizoram was recognized as a state with high literacy levels. The government actively implemented this initiative to ensure that all citizens could achieve reading and writing proficiency.

Through ULLAS, individuals who were previously unable to read or write were provided opportunities to gain literacy skills. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS 2023–2024), 98.2% of adults in Mizoram are now literate, making Mizoram the most literate state in India.¹⁴

14. Mizoram Achieves Full Functional Literacy. Press Information Bureau. 20 MAY 2025 8:52PM by PIB Delhi. [https://www.pib.gov.in/Press Release Page. asp? PRID= 2130080 ®= 3& lang=2](https://www.pib.gov.in/Press%20Release%20Page.aspx?PRID=2130080®=3&lang=2)

This clearly shows that the Mizo language is widely used across the state, and the people can read and write effectively.

3.2 Progress in Education:

The Mizo language can be studied from the elementary level up to the doctoral level. As of 2026, Mizoram University has 36 affiliated colleges, and among these, 22 colleges offer Mizo as either a core or elective subject, with many students actively enrolled. Beyond Mizoram, Mizo is also taught in neighboring states:

- In Assam, Mizo is offered up to the HSLC level.
- In Meghalaya, students can study Mizo as an elective subject from BA level.
- In Tripura, Mizo is taught at the elementary to high school level, and Tripura University offers it as a certificate course.
- At Manipur University, Mizo has been taught in BA (MIL) courses since 1979. In 1998, it was officially listed as the 'Mizo subject,' and in the 2010–2022 sessions, it could be studied as an elective. By 2022, five colleges in Manipur offered Mizo as an elective subject.

This shows that Mizo education has expanded significantly both within Mizoram and in neighboring states.

The Master's program in Mizo was first introduced at North Eastern Hill University in 1997, with 50 students per semester. Later, at Pachhunga University College, the MA (Mizo) program began in 2018, with 20 seats per semester. From 2018 onward, ICFAI University also started offering MA in Mizo and Cultural Studies. By 2025, at Mizoram University, the Mizo Department has produced about 25 Ph.D. degree holders in the subject. This shows the steady development of higher education in the Mizo language over the years.

4. INCLUSION IN GOOGLE TRANSLATE:

On 11th May 2022, Google Translate added the Mizo language, making it possible to translate Mizo into other languages. Google Translate was launched around 2004, and before 2022 it supported 109 languages. In 2022, 24 more languages were added, increasing the total to 133 languages. During this phase, the Mizo language was also included in Google Translate.

Later, in 2024, another 110 languages were added, and at present, Google Translate supports a total of 249 languages.

When Mizo was going to be included in Google Translate in 2022, around 1,745 languages were initially examined for possible inclusion. Since Google is a search engine, it continuously collects various kinds of data based on users' needs and interests. From this collected data, 1,057 languages were considered suitable for further study.

These selected languages were carefully analyzed and evaluated. However, for some languages, sufficient data could not be obtained, so they were gradually excluded. After this rigorous screening process, 112 languages were finally selected for continued research.

These 112 languages were again studied in greater depth, and out of which 38 languages were identified as strong candidates. These 38 languages were examined even more thoroughly. Since many of the researchers were not native speakers of these languages, native speakers were invited to participate as contributors. With their help, the accuracy of the collected data was verified. After this detailed evaluation, 24 languages were finally selected for inclusion in Google Translate, and Mizo was one of them.

The experts who developed Google Translate use a measurement system called the Bilingual Evaluation Understudy (BLEU) score to assess language quality. Using this method, the initial translation accuracy rate for Mizo was only 13.2%, but it has now improved to approximately 42.65%. The main reasons given for including Mizo in Google Translate are:

The number of users are about two million.

It is widely used in government, offices for official dealing, and religious gathering and almost all public places.

It uses the Roman script, which is easy to use on computer keyboards.

It is an official language and is recognized by the Sahitya Akademi.

There is large amount of digital content available on the internet.

The number of people interested in learning and using Mizo language is increasing on a daily basis.

It is suitable for applications in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Mizo is rich in folk literature.

Literature is steadily growing, and educationally it is also progressing.

The Mizo language is used not only within India, but also in different countries around the world.

All these factors contributed positively for inclusion of the Mizo language in google translate and also this makes Mizo language a strongest contender for inclusion in eighth schedule of Indian constitution.

5. RECOGNIZED AS A SAHITYA AKADEMI BHASHA SAMMAN LANGUAGE:

The Sahitya Akademi recognizes 24 languages, which include the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, along with English and Rajasthani.

Apart from these, Sahitya Akademi also recognizes several minor languages that are eligible for the Bhasha Samman Award, and the Mizo language is one of them. Because of this recognition, four individuals have already received the Bhasha Samman Award from Mizoram.

Since the Mizo language is considered important in many ways, this makes Mizo language a strong contender for inclusion in Eighth Schedule.

6. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MIZO LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT BOARD:

In order to preserve, develop and enrich Mizo language, the Mizoram Legislative Assembly, during its eighth assembly, fourth session, passed the “*Mizo Language Development Bill, 2022*” on 10th March 2022. The establishment of such a dedicated Language Development Board is quite rare even among other Indian states.

For the Mizo Language Development Board (MLDB), Dr. Lalzirmawia Chhange, Secretary of the School Education Department, was initially appointed as Adhoc Chairman, and the office was inaugurated on 6th February 2023 at the Mizoram New Capital Complex (MINECO).

On 14th July 2023, R. Lallianzuala of Chanmari, Aizawl, was appointed as the first permanent Chairman of MLDB. Vanlalţanpuia, MCS, was appointed as Secretary. Later, he was transferred in September 2024, Lalsangpuia, MSS, took over charge of MLDB Secretary.

Under the MLDB, there is a Governing Board with 12 members, and three specialized committees have been formed:

- Grammar Committee
- Glossary Committee
- Research & Documentation Committee

In addition, the Governing Board has also constituted on 18th July 2025, a three-member study group to conduct indepth studies and survey possibilities for inclusion of Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Followings are the members of Eighth Schedule Study Group -

1. Lalsangpuia,
Secretary, MLDB (Convener)
2. Dr. Zoramdinthara,
HoD, Department of Mizo, Mizoram University (Member)
3. Dr. H. Laldinmawia,
Hod, Department of Mizo, Pachhunga University College (Member)

The study group successfully completed and submitted its report on 16th February, 2026.

7. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE OF THE MIZO LANGUAGE:

The Mizo language has a wide and expanding geographical coverage, extending from its core homeland in Northeast India to several neighboring countries and global diaspora communities. Its spread is closely connected with the historical movement of the Mizo people, colonial boundaries, and modern migration.

7.1 Core Area:

Mizoram - The primary geographical base of the Mizo language is Mizoram, where it is declared as the official state language. It is used in Government administration, school, university, print and digital media, literature, religion, and every day life among the Mizos and ethnic tribes. In Mizoram, Mizo serves as the lingua franca, understood and used by almost the entire population regardless of ethnic background.

7.2. Regional Spread within India:

Outside Mizoram, Mizo is widely spoken in other parts of India, especially in the Northeast: *Assam* – Particularly in Barak Valley districts (Cachar, Hailakandi, Karimganj), where many Mizo communities live and Mizo is used in churches, schools, and social life. *Tripura* – Spoken by Mizo minorities and taught elementary up to high school level. *Manipur* – Used by Mizo communities; taught as an elective subject in several colleges. *Meghalaya* – Studied at undergraduate level and used among Mizo populations residing in state. In these regions, Mizo functions as a community language, helping maintain cultural identity outside the home state.

7.3. International Coverage:

The Mizo language also crosses national boundaries, especially in areas historically inhabited by Mizo tribes. *Myanmar* – In Chin State, Mizo and closely related Chin languages are widely spoken. Many speakers use Mizo as a bridge language for inter-group communication. *Bangladesh* – In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Mizo is spoken by indigenous communities and used in religious and cultural programmes. Here, Mizo operates as a transnational ethnic language, linking communities divided by political borders.

7.4. Global Diaspora:

With ever expanding education, employment, and migration, Mizo speakers are now found in major Indian cities like Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkata, Mumbai and countries such as the UK, USA, Australia, Canada, and parts of Europe. In diaspora communities, Mizo is used in Churches and community organizations, online media, social networks, and digital literature, cultural programs and festivals. This has made Mizo language as a global communicative language.

7.5. Functional Coverage:

Geographically, Mizo is not limited to physical territory but also exists in digital and virtual spaces: Social media and YouTube channels, Online news portals, Google Translate and AI-based tools. Thus, its coverage today is both territorial and virtual, making it accessible worldwide. Therefore, the Mizo language has evolved from a regional tribal language into an international and digital language.

D. MIZO LANGUAGE AND THE EIGHTH SCHEDULE

The Mizo language qualified for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. It is the official language of one state, and its speakers are found in different parts of India as well as in different countries. The language itself is steadily developing, and the number of its speakers is also increasing on a daily basis.

In addition to this, both literature and education in Mizo language are making continuous progress. Therefore, the entire community—along with various organizations and government—has come together in support of inclusion of Mizo in the Eighth Schedule, and collective efforts have already been initiated to achieve this goal. Some of the important steps taken in this direction are as follows:

1. PASSED BY THE MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

One very important development is that on 22th February 1991, the then MLA Pu R. Romawia introduced a private member resolution in the floor of Mizoram Legislative Assembly with a request to the Central Government to include the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. Although it was a private member's resolution, the then Congress government unanimously passed the resolution.

During the discussion in the House on this resolution, Pu R. Romawia stated that “Now that we have achieved full statehood, it is necessary that our language is included among the national languages—not merely for numerical strength, but for the sake of our distinct identity.” He further added that “When I look at the scripts of various Indian languages, I see that most of them have their own scripts. Similarly, Mizo also has its own script, and we use the Roman script.”

In this discussion, several leaders took part, including Dr. H. Thansanga (Minister), Pu Zoramsangliana, Pu Zoramthanga, Pu C. L. Ruala (Minister), Pu P. C. Bawitluanga, Pu Hari Kristo Chakma, and Pu Lal Thanhawla (Chief Minister). None of them opposed the resolution.

The resolution was forwarded on 2nd April 1991 by the Assembly Secretary to the Chief Secretary of Mizoram. On 4th October 1991, the Law, Judicial and Parliamentary Affairs Department informed the Assembly Secretary that the resolution had been approved by the Council of Ministers and had been sent to the Government of India. Later, on 2nd December 1991, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, wrote to the Mizoram Chief Secretary stating that the government was not yet prepared to add new languages to the Eighth Schedule, although it remained committed to protecting all Indian languages.

2. THE CHURCH HAS ALSO TAKEN INITIATIVE:

The largest church in Mizoram, the Mizoram Presbyterian Church, through its Synod assembly, has also been actively considering the issue of including the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

According to a government press release, on 14th June 2021, the leaders of the Synod met Zoramthanga, Chief Minister of Mizoram, at his office. During the meeting, they discussed issues related to resolving inter-state boundary disputes at the earliest possible time, and also raised the matter of inclusion of the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Although the exact details of the discussion were not made public, it is evident that the Synod strongly advocated for the inclusion of the Mizo language under the Constitution.¹⁵

3. MIZORAM LAW COMMISSION:

According to a press release issued by the Mizoram State Law Commission, on 26th August 2021, the Commission held a meeting at its office chamber under the chairmanship of Pu Lala Khobung, Chairman, Mizoram State Law Commission.

In this meeting, several important matters were discussed. One of the key issues was that under Articles 344(1) and 351 of the Constitution of India, languages such as Assamese, Bodo, Manipuri, Nepali, etc., which are included in the Eighth Schedule, are used as subjects or syllabus in various All India Service competitive examinations conducted by UPSC, SSC, and State Public Service Commissions. Because of this, candidates using these languages enjoy significant advantages.

The Law Commission observed that the non-inclusion of Mizo in the Eighth Schedule is one of the main reasons why Mizo language users are at a disadvantage position compared to Assamese, Bodo, Manipuri, Nepali etc.. Therefore, the Commission strongly supported the inclusion of Mizo in the Eighth Schedule.

Out of seven recommendations submitted to the Government of Mizoram by the ten-member Commission, one of the key recommendations was: ‘That the Mizo language be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India under Articles 344(1) and 351.’¹⁶

4. COLLECTIVE SUPPORT FROM VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS:

The Mizo language is understood and used by almost all Mizo ethnic tribes, and therefore it functions as a common language (lingua franca) for the Mizo people. Mizos living within Mizoram, in other parts of India, and even abroad use it mainly as their primary means of communication.

Not only Mizos, but even many non-Mizo communities—especially those living along the borders of Mizoram—are proficient in the Mizo language. More-

15. <https://dipr.mizoram.gov.in/post/chief-minister-leh-synod-puipate-inkawm>

16. <https://dipr.mizoram.gov.in/post/mizoram-state-law-commission-thukhawmin-thu-pawimawh-tak-tak-relho>

over, various social organizations strongly support the inclusion of the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, and they have been making continuous efforts to ensure its inclusion. Some of the major expressions of this collective support are as follows:

4.1 Central Young Mizo Association (CYMA):

The Central Young Mizo Association (YMA) is the largest organization of Mizo youth in Mizoram. It was established in 1935 and currently has 4,04,722 youth members, with 5 Sub-Headquarters, 47 Groups, and 805 Branches.

During its General Conference held at Ngopa in 1996, the YMA adopted a resolution requesting the government to take steps for inclusion of Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

The YMA has also raised this issue with two Prime Ministers of India—I. K. Gujral and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, when they visited Mizoram. Moreover, the YMA regularly presents this demand to important leaders from the Central Government who visit the state.

The CYMA has consistently urged every newly appointed Chief Minister of Mizoram to work for the inclusion of the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule. They have also met Shri Amit Shah, the Hon'ble Union Home Minister, and formally requested him to support the inclusion of Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule. At present, CYMA is considered as one of the most active and influential organization leading the movement for this cause.

4.2 Mizoram Upa Pawl (MUP):

The Mizoram Upa Pawl (MUP) is an organization for Mizo senior citizens, open to people aged 60 years and above. It was established in 1954. At present, MUP has 70,102 members, with 1 General Headquarters, 8 District Headquarters, 90 Areas, and 589 Branches. Its membership includes almost all retired senior government officers, former church workers, and other respected members of society.

Although MUP has not taken a very prominent leadership role in the movement for inclusion, it has clearly expressed its strong support for the inclusion of the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, and has stated its willingness to contribute actively whenever needed to achieve this goal.

4.3 Mizo Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl (MHIP):

The Mizo Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl (MHIP) is an organization that brings together all Mizo women. It was established in 1974. At present, MHIP has more than 40,000 members, with 1 General Headquarters, 10 Sub-Headquarters, 30 Blocks, and 762 Branches. It works actively for the development and empowerment of Mizo women, and strongly supports efforts to include the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The organization has expressed its commitment to contribute fully toward this cause.

4.4 Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP):

The Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP) is the student organization of the Mizo community, founded in 1935. Under its umbrella are various ethnic student bodies, such as: Hmar Students Association (HSA), Lai Students' Association (LSA), Mizoram Bawm Students' Association (MBSA), Pang Zirlai Pawl (PZP), Mara Students' Organization (MSO), Ranglong Students' Union (RSU), Thado-Kuki Students' Union (TKSU), Siamsinpawlpi. MZP has One General Headquarters, 12 Headquarters, 51 Sub-Headquarters, 106 Branches in different towns and villages, and 25 branches in educational institutions. They fully supports the inclusion of the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

4.5 Mizo Students Union (MSU):

The Mizo Students Union (MSU) is another student organization, established in 2001. It has 1 Regional Headquarters, 7 District Headquarters, 7 Headquarters, 27 Sub-Headquarters, 2 Joint Headquarters, 37 Branches, and 24 affiliated colleges. It also includes seven ethnic student bodies under its umbrella: Lai Students' Association (LSA), Mizoram Bawm Students' Association (MBSA), Pang Zirlai Pawl (PZP), Mara Students' Organization (MSO), Ranglong Students' Union (RSU), Thado-Kuki Students' Union (TKSU), Siamsinpawlpi.

The MSU considers the inclusion of the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule to be very important and has frequently discussed the issue in its meetings and other events.

4.6 Mizo Academy of Letters (MAL):

The Mizo Academy of Letters (MAL) was established in 1964 and is composed of prominent writers and literary scholars. It has 1 General Headquarters, 4 Sub-Headquarters, 1 Branch, and about 600 members. It also maintains close links with various literary associations across Mizoram.

Since 1979, MAL has been compiling annual records of Mizo publications and selecting the 'Book of the Year'. It also presents an 'Academy Award' every three years to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Mizo literature. MAL has been one of the most active institutions in researching and advocating for the inclusion of the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule, and has played a significant role in intellectual and policy making level for achieving this goal. It has also published a comprehensive research paper on 8th schedule titled as 'Mizo Ṭawng leh Eighth Schedule'.

4.7 Mizo Writers Association (MWA):

The Mizo Writers Association (MWA) is a major association of Mizo writers, established in 1977, and currently has 265 membership. It actively promotes the development of Mizo literature by awarding annual Translation Awards and Proficiency Awards to top students of Mizo at college and university levels.

One of its most popular activities is the annual ‘Lehkhabu Pho Runpui’ (Book Exhibition), which is highly appreciated by the general public. The MWA strongly advocates for the inclusion of the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule, and it remains deeply committed to advancing this cause.

4.8 Delhi Mizo Zirlai Pawl (DMZP):

The Delhi Mizo Zirlai Pawl (DMZP) has been actively working since 2003 to promote the inclusion of the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule. It has organized seminars, published research booklets such as ‘*A Study on the Inclusion of Mizo in the 8th Schedule*’, and conducted various television discussions.

Through academic research and media engagement, DMZP has consistently worked to raise awareness and build momentum for inclusion of Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule.

4.9 Mizo Literature and Language Teachers’ Academy (MILLTA):

The Mizo Literature and Language Teachers’ Academy (MILLTA) is a major professional body of Mizo teachers from universities and colleges, established in 1988, with around 120 members.

MILLTA has organized numerous seminars and academic programs in support of inclusion of Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule. From 2024 onwards, it has intensified its efforts by engaging with various organizations and communities, actively campaigning for the constitutional recognition of the Mizo language.

4.10 Mara Youth Association (MYA) and Young Lai Association (YLA):

The Mara Youth Association (MYA) and the Young Lai Association (YLA) are major youth organizations of the Mara and Lai communities, each having a large membership. Although they primarily use their respective dialects, most of their members are also proficient in the Mizo language and Mizo language is used as a common language for communication with each other. It is widely used among Mara and Lai. Therefore, they consider the inclusion of Mizo in the Eighth Schedule to be both necessary and highly important, and they strongly support initiatives aimed at achieving this goal.

4.11 Central Young Chakma Association and Young Bru Association:

The Central Young Chakma Association (CYCA) and the Young Bru Association (YBA) are major youth organizations representing the Chakma and Bru communities in Mizoram.

Their members are generally proficient in Mizo, and they recognize the inclusion of Mizo in the Eighth Schedule as an important and necessary step. Both organizations have expressed their strong support for efforts in this direction.

4.12 Bru Students Association and Mizoram Chakma Students Union:

The Bru Students Association (BSA) and the Mizoram Chakma Students Union (MCSU) are student organizations representing the Bru and Chakma communities residing in Mizoram, with members spread across the state.

They too are generally proficient in Mizo and have stated that the inclusion of Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule is highly important, pledging their support for all initiatives aimed at achieving this constitutional recognition.

4.13 Hmar Students Association, Lai Students Association, Mara Students Organisation, Bawm Students Association, Pang Zirlai Pawl, Ranglong Students Association, Siansinpawlpi:

These are various community-based student organizations. They function mainly as study and support groups, and collectively they have stated that they have no objection or opposition to the inclusion of the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule. On the contrary, they support and agree with the proposal for its inclusion.

4.14 Inclusion in Political Party Manifestos:

Various political parties in Mizoram, in their election manifestos, have repeatedly stated their commitment to make every possible effort for inclusion of the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule. This clearly indicates a strong and widespread political will to have Mizo language recognized and included in the Indian Constitution.

5. APPLICATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE EIGHTH SCHEDULE

The Mizo language was formally proposed for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution in 1991 through a Private Member's Resolution passed by the Mizoram Legislative Assembly. Following the passing of this resolution, the Law, Judicial and Parliamentary Affairs Department forwarded the proposal to the Council of Ministers for approval. After receiving approval from the Council of Ministers, the proposal was officially submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

At present, there are around 38 languages seeking inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Among these, Mizo is the only language that already enjoys the status of an official language of a state, which makes its claim particularly strong and distinctive.

Originally, when the Indian Constitution came into force in 1950, only 14 languages were included in the Eighth Schedule, known as the original schedule. Later, through the 21st Constitutional Amendment (1967), Sindhi was added. Subsequently, the 71st Constitutional Amendment (1992) included three more languages—Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali. Again, through the 92nd Constitutional Amendment (2003), four additional languages—Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali—were incorporated. As a result, the total number of languages in the Eighth Schedule currently stands at 22.

It is noteworthy that more than 25 years have passed since the last inclusion of any new language in the Eighth Schedule. If and when new languages are added in the future, Mizo is expected to be among the foremost candidates, given its official status, literary development, and strong institutional support within Mizoram.

E. CONCLUSION

The Mizo language appears to be fully qualified for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The various reasons discussed above may be summarised as follows:

- Mizo is the official language of the state of Mizoram.
- Speakers of the Mizo language are found across 26 states and 7 Union Territories of India.
- Mizo functions as a common language among all *Zohnathlak* (*All Mizo ethnic tribe*) communities.
- According to rough estimates, the population of Mizo language speakers is approximately 2.2 million
- Various studies indicate that the number of Mizo speakers is steadily increasing.
- Mizo literature and the academic study of the Mizo language continue to make significant progress.
- The Mizo language has been included in Google Translate, reflecting its growing global recognition and presence.
- Mizo has been recognised by the Sahitya Akademi under the Bhasha Samman category.
- The Mizo Language Development Board has been established to promote, enrich and preserve Mizo language.
- The Mizoram Legislative Assembly has already passed a resolution supporting its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule, and Mizo language is currently among the 38 languages under consideration.
- Various cultural and literary organisations in Mizoram actively support the inclusion of Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule.
- Mizo has attained the status of a global language, as it is spoken not only in India but also in several countries across the world.

Appendix I

-14-

PU CH.CHHUNGA: Pu Speaker, ka pu, Mizoram official language
CHIEF MINISTER. Bill, 1974 hi introduce ka dil e.

SPEAKER: Objection a awm em? A awm loh chuan hru
Introduce nghal mai sela.

PU CH.CHHUNGA: Pu Speaker, Bill chu kan Introduce e.
CHIEF MINISTER.

SPEAKER: Introduce a ni a, a ngaihtuah hun erawh chu
vawin a ni lovang a, naktukah a ni ang.
Tin, he ~~hni~~ copy chu kan hmu theuh tawh a,
chuvangin kha kha a tawh ang a. Tin, introduce atanga ni 2 tih
khami amendment emaw thil avanga tul thin pawh kha kan relax ang.
Naktukah ngaihtuah nghal tur a ni. Chuvangin amendment thil
emaw chu ~~naktukah~~ vawinah tih vek a ngai a ni. No.3 ah kan
kal ang. Secretary in title of the Bill han chhiar chuak sela.

(N.C.HANDIQUE : Read out the title of the Bill)
SECRETARY.

SPEAKER: No.3 ah - Mizoram Trading by non-tribals
Regulation Bill, 1974 hei hi Revenue Minister
introduce han dil sela.

PU VAIVENGA: Pu Speaker, I beg leave to introduce the Mizoram
MINISTER. Trading by non-tribals Regulation Bills, 1974.

SPEAKER: Objection a awm em? Awm lo anih chuan rawn
introduce sela.

PU VAIVENGA: Pu Speaker, with your permission, I introduce
MINISTER. the bill.

SPEAKER: Tunah bill introduce a ni a, Secretary in
title of the Bill han chhiar chuak sela.

(N.C. HANDIQUE: Read out title of the Bill)
Secretary.

SPEAKER: Item No.4 ah kan kal ang. Mizoram Legislative
Assembly Proceedings Protection of Publication
Bill, 1974. Chu chu Parliamentary - Affairs
Minister-in introduce han dil sela.

PU LALSANGZUALA: Pu Speaker, I beg leave to i troduce the
MINISTER. Mizoram Legislative Assembly Proteddings
Protection of Publication Bill, 1974.

SPEAKER: Objection a awm em? A awm loh chuan han

Appendix II

Annexure-1

Regd. No: N.E. 207.



The Mizoram Gazette

EXTRA-ORDINARY

Published by Authority

Vol IV, Aizawl, Friday 9th May, 1975, Valsakha 19, S.E. 1897, Issue No. 17

No. LJD 100/74/17. the 9th May, 1975. The following Act of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly which received the assent of the President is hereby published for general information.

The Mizoram Act No. 3 of 1975 (The Mizoram Official language Act 1974)

AN

ACT

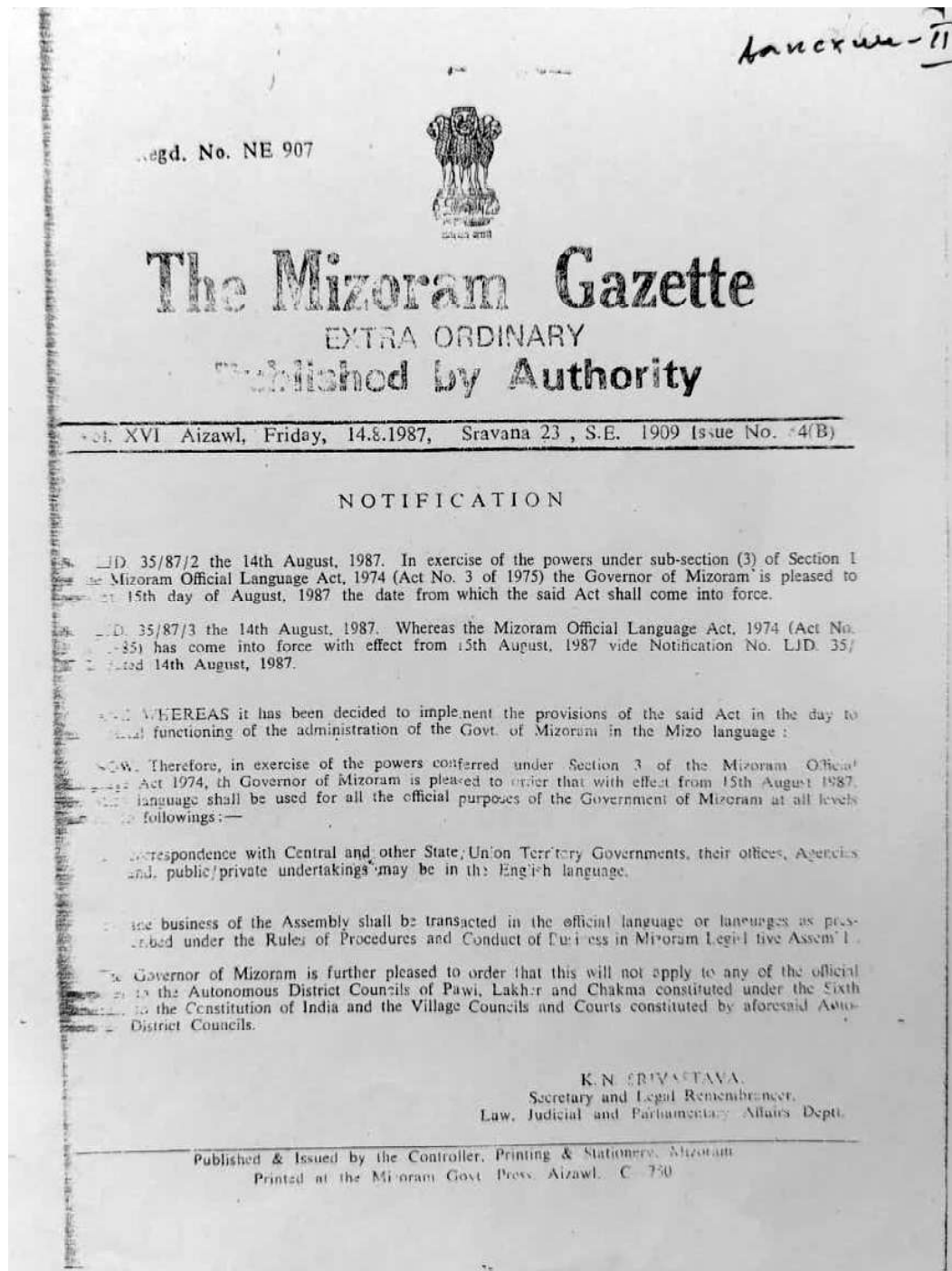
to provide for the language to be used for the official purposes of the Union territory of Mizoram

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of Mizoram in the Twenty-fifth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

Short title extent and commencement.	1. (1) This Act may be called the Mizoram Official Language Act 1974 (2) It extends to the whole of the Union Territory of Mizoram (3) It shall come into force on such date as the Administrator may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint,
--	---

The Mizoram Gazette, Extra Ordinary, Vol IV Aizawl,
Friday 9th May, 1975 Valsakha 19, S.E 1897, Issue No 17

Appendix III



The Mizoram Gazette, Extra Ordinary, Vol XVI, Aizawl,
Friday 14.8.1987 Sravana 23, SE 1909 Issue Ni 84 (B) published by Authority

Appendix IV

No.B.14015/10/2020-GAD/Pt-II
GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM
General Administration Department
Mizoram New Capital Complex, Aizawl

C I R C U L A R

Dated at Aizawl, the 22nd June, 2021

It has come to the knowledge of the Government of Mizoram that the practice of using either English or Mizo language in certain official documents issued by the Departments and Offices under Government of Mizoram renders the content of such documents liable to be not fully understood by the concerned officials and the public. In view of the problems faced by the target groups in certain cases, the Government of Mizoram has considered ways for finding the solution.

It may pointed out that as empowered by Section 3 of the Mizoram Official Language Act, 1974, the Governor of Mizoram had already notified vide No.LJD 35/87/2 dt.14.08.1987 (Mizoram Gazette Extra Ordinary Vol.XVI dt..148.1987) that the Mizo language shall be used in all the official purposes of the Government of Mizoram at all level subject certain conditions.

In light of the above, all Departments/Offices under the Government of Mizoram are advised **to take necessary steps for issue of both the English and Mizo versions of the Government Instruments, Notifications, Office Memoranda, etc which are intended for majority of the Government officials or the general public.**

The content of this Circular may be brought to the notice of all subordinate offices.

Sd/- J.C. Ramthanga
Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt of Mizoram
General Administration Department

Office Circular, General Administration Department, 22 June, 2021

Appendix V

MAP 58

DISTRIBUTION OF LIMBU, LOTH, LUSHAI/MIZO AND MALTO LANGUAGES 2011

The geographical distribution of four Non-Scheduled languages namely, Limbu, Lotha, Lushai/Mizo and Malto are shown in four separate maps at the district level according to Census 2011. The speakers of these four languages are categorized as per their absolute number and grouped into four ranges viz. 10 and below, 11 to 100, 101 to 1,000 and 1,001 and above. Districts falling in each range are shaded by colours of different intensities and their number is written within brackets against each range. Remaining districts with 'nil' speaker of particular language are left blank on the map.

Limbu is one of the Non-Scheduled languages and it is classified under the Tibeto-Burman family of languages. It is mainly spoken in the state of Sikkim. In Census 2011, Limbu mother tongue which has more than 10,000 speakers in India is grouped under Limbu as variant. Rest of mother tongues returned as variants of Limbu with less than 10,000 speakers are grouped under 'Others'. Sirijangga/Sirijunga script is used for writing this language.

As per Census 2011, 40,835 Limbu speakers are recorded which cover 0.003 per cent of the country's total population. In India, Limbu speakers are mainly concentrated in the state of Sikkim (38,733) with 94.85 per cent of the country and 6.34 per cent of the state's total population. It is followed by West Bengal (921), Assam (780), Manipur (169), Arunachal Pradesh (120), Nagaland (32), Meghalaya and Maharashtra (15 each), Himachal Pradesh (7) and NCT of Delhi and Rajasthan (6 each). In Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, Jharkhand, Goa and Tamil Nadu, number of Limbu speakers are upto 5 and 'nil' in 12 States/UTs.

The district-wise distribution reveals that out of 640 districts, 67 districts have Limbu speakers in India. The overall picture of 67 districts towards the speakers' strength of Limbu shows that their number is 10 and below in 48 districts, 11 to 100 in 10 districts, 101 to 1,000 in 5 districts and 1,001 and above in 4 districts.

Among the districts of Sikkim, Limbu speakers are available in West District (25,357) followed by South District (5,249), East District (4,408) and North District (3,719). Outside Sikkim, Limbu is spoken in Darjiling (640) and Jalpaiguri (278) districts of West Bengal; Tinsukia (476), Udalguri (120), Golaghat (62), Baksa (29), Sonitpur (26), Karbi Anglong (21) and Dima Hasao (11) districts of Assam; Senapati (164) district of Manipur; Lohit (47), Lower Dibang Valley (32) and Tirap (11) districts of Arunachal Pradesh; Dimapur (20) district of Nagaland and Jaintia Hills (13) district of Meghalaya and below 10 in remaining 48 districts.

Lotha is one of the Non-Scheduled languages and it is classified under the Tibeto-Burman family of languages. It is mainly spoken in the state of Nagaland. In Census 2011, one mother tongue namely, Lotha which has more than 10,000 speakers in India is grouped under Lotha as variant. Roman script is used for writing this language.

As per Census 2011, 1,79,467 Lotha speakers are recorded which cover 0.01 per cent of the country's total population. In India, Lotha speakers are mainly concentrated in the state of Nagaland (1,77,488) with 98.90 per cent speakers in the country and 8.97 per cent of the state's total population. They are also available in Assam (1,188), Meghalaya (228), West Bengal (124), Manipur (69), Arunachal Pradesh (54), NCT of Delhi and Karnataka (43 each), Jammu and Kashmir (29), Uttar Pradesh (27), Maharashtra (24), Uttarakhand (21), Andhra Pradesh (18), Himachal Pradesh (16), Punjab and Madhya Pradesh (14 each), Tamil Nadu (10), Mizoram (9), Odisha (8), Rajasthan and Sikkim (7 each) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (6). In Tripura, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Haryana, Goa, Chandigarh, Bihar, Kerala, Lotha speakers are upto 5 and 'nil' in 5 States/UTs.

The district-wise distribution reveals that out of 640 districts, 120 districts have Lotha speakers in India. The overall picture of 120 districts towards the speakers' strength of Lotha shows that their number is 10 and below in 84 districts, 11 to 100 in 25 districts, 101 to 1,000 in 7 districts and 1,001 and above in 4 districts.

Among the districts of Nagaland, Lotha speakers are the highest in Wokha (1,50,506), followed by Dimapur (18,353), Kohima (6,304), Mokokchung (798), Phiek (411), Peren (312), Zunheboto (246), Tuensang (221), Mon (218), Kiphire (78) and Longleng (41) districts. Outside Nagaland, Lotha is spoken in Karbi Anglong (1,047) and Golaghat (78) districts of Assam; East Khasi Hills (194) and Ribhoi (23) districts of Meghalaya; Purniya (49) and Jalpaiguri (35) districts of West Bengal; Bangalore (39) district of Karnataka; Chandel (36) district of Manipur; Lucknow (21) district of Uttar Pradesh whereas Lotha speakers are below 10 in other districts.

Lushai/Mizo is one of the Non-Scheduled languages and it is classified under the Tibeto-Burman family of languages. Speakers of Lushai/Mizo language are mainly confined in Mizoram state. In Census 2011, one mother tongue namely, Lushai/Mizo which returned with 10,000 plus speakers' strength at all India

level and linguistically identified, is grouped under Lushai/Mizo as variant and rest of the mother tongues returned as its variants are grouped under 'Others'. Roman script is used for writing Lushai/Mizo language.

As per Census 2011, 8,30,846 Lushai/Mizo speakers are recorded in India which covers 0.07 per cent of the country's total population. However, in Mizoram, they constitute 73.16 per cent of the state's total population. In India, this language is mainly concentrated in Mizoram (8,02,763) with 96.62 per cent, Manipur (6,500) with 0.78 per cent and Tripura (5,639) with 0.68 per cent Lushai/Mizo speakers of the country. Together they cover 98.08 per cent of the total Lushai/Mizo in the country. Beyond these 3 states, Lushai/Mizo speakers are reported in the states of Meghalaya (4,455), Assam (4,006), Arunachal Pradesh (1,431), Nagaland (1,194), NCT of Delhi (715), West Bengal (523), Jammu & Kashmir (521), Punjab (472), Karnataka (453), Maharashtra (406), Andhra Pradesh (274), Uttar Pradesh (228), Himachal Pradesh (197), Rajasthan (185), Madhya Pradesh (181), Tamil Nadu (120) and Uttarakhand (118). In rest of the 12 States/UTs, their speakers' strength is below 100 whereas no Lushai/Mizo speaker is returned from 3 UTs.

The district-wise distribution reveals that out of 640 districts, 291 districts have Lushai/Mizo speakers in India. The overall picture of 291 districts towards the speakers' strength of Lushai/Mizo shows that their number is 10 and below in 162 districts, 11 to 100 in 81 districts, 101 to 1,000 in 37 districts and 1,001 and above in 11 districts.

Among the districts of Mizoram, the highest strength of Lushai/Mizo speakers is noticed in Aizawl (3,61,526) district, followed by Lunglei (1,16,498), Champhai (1,06,559), Kolasib (63,750), Serchhip (63,473), Mamit (54,073), Lawngtlai (27,394) and Saiha (9,490) districts.

Outside Mizoram, Lushai/Mizo is spoken in North Tripura (5,104), West Tripura (234) and South Tripura (219) districts of Tripura; Churachandpur (5,033), Chandel (544), Imphal West (283), Senapati (243) and Imphal East (203) districts of Manipur; East Khasi Hills (3,991) and Ribhoi (203) districts of Meghalaya; Lohit (666) district of Arunachal Pradesh; Hailakandi (731), Karbi Anglong (592), Cachar (537), Dima Hasao (500), Kamrup Metropolitan (348) and Darrang (233) districts of Assam; Dimapur (433), Kohima (300) and Tuensang (220) districts of Nagaland; South West (421) district of NCT of Delhi; Bangalore (396) district of Karnataka; Gurdaspur (357) district of Punjab and Jalpaiguri (226) district of West Bengal and below 200 in remaining districts.

Malto is one of the Non-Scheduled languages and it is classified under the Dravidian family of languages. Speakers of Malto language are mainly confined in Jharkhand state. In Census 2011, two mother tongues namely, Kulehya and Paharaiya which returned with 10,000 plus speakers' strength at all India level and linguistically identified, are grouped under Malto as variants and rest of the mother tongues returned as variants of Malto with less than 10,000 speakers are grouped under 'Others'. No regular script is used for writing Malto language.

According to Census 2011, 2,34,991 Malto speakers are recorded which covers 0.02 per cent of the country's total population. In Jharkhand they constitute 0.46 per cent of the state's total population. In India, Malto speakers are mainly found in the Jharkhand with 1,51,565 (64.50%) and Bihar with 75,986 (32.34%). Together they cover 96.83 per cent of the total Malto speakers in the country. They are also concentrated in West Bengal (5,057), Odisha (1,355), Assam (371), Chhattisgarh (198), Madhya Pradesh (196), Tripura (105), Kerala (74), Jammu & Kashmir (49). Their number is less than 10 in 9 States/UTs and 'nil' in 16 States/UTs.

The district-wise distribution that out of 640 districts, 88 districts have Malto speakers in India. The overall picture of 88 districts towards the speakers' strength of Malto shows that their number is 10 and below in 39 districts, 11 to 100 in 22 districts, 101 to 1,000 in 18 districts and 1,001 and above in 9 districts.

In the state of Jharkhand, Malto speakers are available in Pakur (44,154), Sahibganj (42,397), Dumka (31,688), Godda (28,711), Jamtara (2,392), Saraikela-Kharsawan (871), Deoghar (504), Latehar (404) and Puri Singhbhum (288) districts. In Bihar, Malto speakers are in Araria (59,169), Purnia (15,764) and Katihar (927) districts, and less than 100 in the remaining districts of both the states. Outside these states, Malto speakers are available in Nadia (2,029), Murshidabad (1,670), Bardhaman (404), Darjiling (395) and Malda (229) districts in West Bengal; Rayagada (797), Ganjam (273), Balangir (128) and Gajapati (126) districts in Odisha; Chhindwara (196) district in Madhya Pradesh; Sonitpur (195) and Jorhat (107) districts in Assam; Surguja (136) district in Chhattisgarh and West Tripura (105) district in Tripura and their strength is below 100 in remaining districts.

The distribution of Limbu, Lotha, Lushai/Mizo and Malto speakers along with the cumulative percentage in the States/Union Territories is given in Table 58 in Annexure-1.

Appendix VI

LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY IN MIZORAM AND
SPEAKER POPULATION (CENSUS 2011)

Adi	26	Lotha	9
Anal	4	Maithili	111
Angami	10	Malayalam	718
Ao	39	Manipuri	2242
Arabic/Arabi	39	Marathi	408
Assamese	1266	Mizo	802763,
Bengali	107840	Mao	13
Bhil/Bhilodi	17	Maram	2
Bhotia	1	Maring	2
Bhumij	559	Miri/Mishing	18
Bhijnupuriya	42	Mishmi	4
Bodo	203	Mogh	330
Chakhesang	6	Monpa	4
Chakru/Chakri	5	Munda	26
Chang	1	Mundari	7
Goorgi	1	Nepali	8994
Deori	1	Nissi/Dafla	22
Dogri	193	Nocte	4
Dimasa	36	Odia	277
English	61	Paite	22214
Gangte	705	Pawi	28624
Garó	94	Punjabi	349
Gujarati	59	Rabha	8
Halabi	1	Rai	23
Halam	375	Rengma	7
Hindi	10677	Sanskrit	Nil
Hmar	17,981	Santali	1150
Ho	2	Sangtam	1
Kabui	15	Savara	1
Karbi/Mikir	8	Sema	5
Kannada	189	Sindhi	Nil
Kashmiri	23	Tamang	17
Kharia	6	Tamil	306
Khasi	707	Tangkhul	20
Kinnauri	1	Tangsa	5
Kisan	1	Thado	476
Konkani	54	Telugu	334
Koch	3	Tibetan	2
Kom	1	Tripuri	32634
Konyak	2	Tulu	6
Kuki	295	Urdu	113
Kurukh	42	Vaiphei	339
Ladakhi	4	Wancho	57
Lahauli	1	Zeliang	9
Lakher	41876	Zemi	26
Lepcha	3	Zou	128
Liangmei	1	A dang	10919
Limbu	1		

(source : Distribution of the 99 non-scheduled languages- India/ States/ Union Territories-2011 census.
<https://censusindia.gov.in/2011Census/Language-2011/Part-A.pdf> Office of the Registrar General & Census
 Commissioner, India; Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. (A dum bik hi eighth schedule
 language an ni)

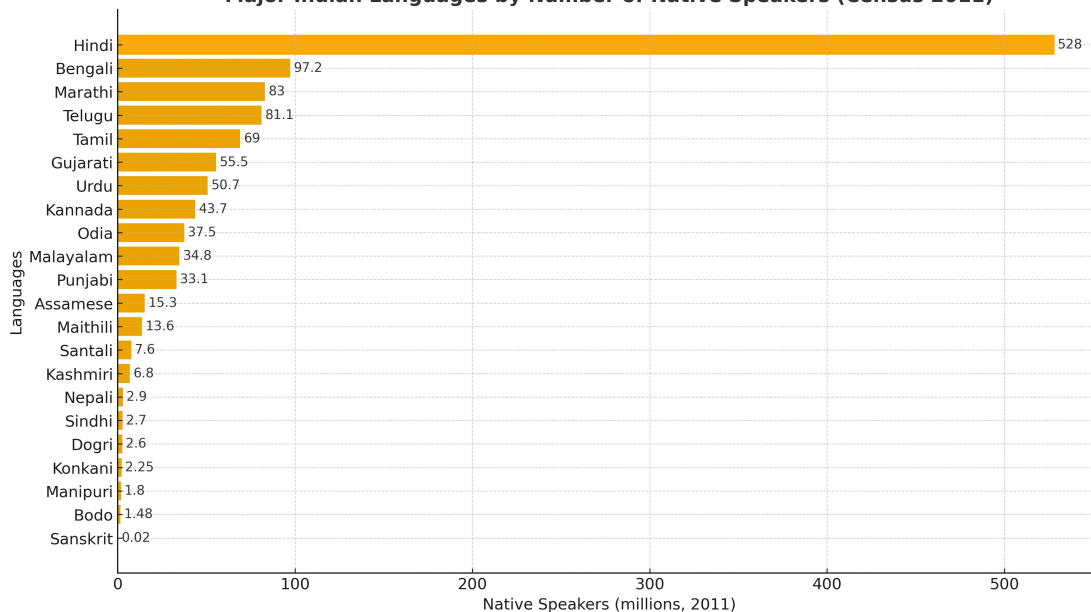
Appendix VII

Demographic Growth of Mizo Speakers

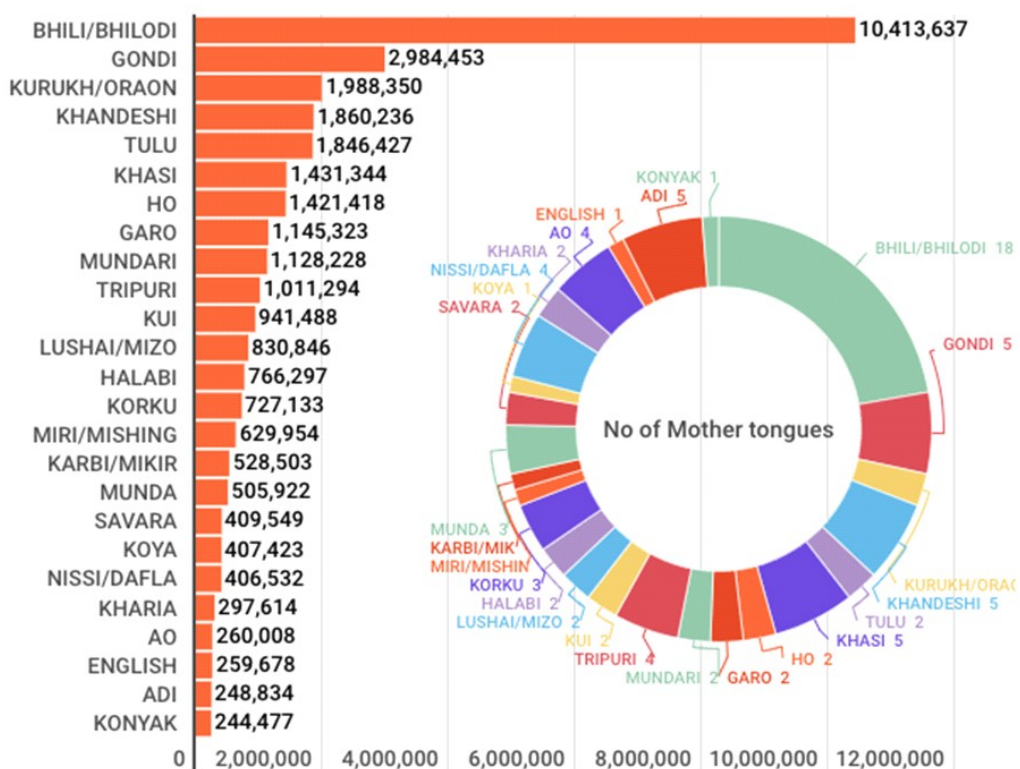
Chhiarpui kum	:	1971
Mihring zat	:	3,32,390
Mizo tawng hmangtu zat	:	2,71,554
Za zela hmangtu zat	:	81.69
Za zela a thanna zat	:	41.60
Chhiarpui kum	:	1981
Mihring zat	:	4,93,757
Mizo tawng hmangtu	:	3,84,528
Za zela hmangtu zat	:	77.87
Za zela a thanna zat	:	41.60
Chhiarpui kum	:	1991
Mihring zat	:	6,89,756
Mizo tawng hmangtu	:	5,38,842
Za zela hmangtu zat	:	78.12
Za zela a thanna zat	:	40.13
Chhiarpui kum	:	2001
Mihring zat	:	8,88,573
Mizo tawng hmangtu	:	6,74,756
Za zela hmangtu zat	:	75.93
Za zela a thanna zat	:	25.22
Chhiarpui kum	:	2011
Mihring zat	:	10,97,206
Mizo tawng hmangtu	:	8,30,846
Za zela hmangtu zat	:	75.72
Za zela a thanna zat	:	23.13

Appendix VIII

Major Indian Languages by Number of Native Speakers (Census 2011)



Non-Scheduled Languages in India (Top 25)



Data Source: Census 2011

https://censusindia.gov.in/2011Census/Language_MTs.html

Appendix IX

Sl. No.	Language Name	Region / Remarks
1	Angika	Bihar, Jharkhand
2	Banjara	Telangana, Maharashtra, Karnataka (Lambadi community)
3	Bazika	Central India (tribal language)
4	Bhojpuri	Bihar, Uttar Pradesh
5	Bhoti	Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh (Tibetan group)
6	Bhotia	Uttarakhand (Tibetan-origin language)
7	Bundelkhandi	Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh
8	Chhattisgarhi	Chhattisgarh
9	Dhatki	Rajasthan, Sindh (Pakistan)
10	English	Pan-India (associate official language)
11	Garhwali (Pahari)	Uttarakhand
12	Gondi	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra (tribal language)
13	Gujjar / Gujjari	Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh
14	Ho	Jharkhand, Odisha (tribal language)
15	Kachchi	Gujarat (Kutch region)
16	Kamtapuri	North Bengal, Assam
17	Karbi	Assam (tribal language)
18	Khasi	Meghalaya
19	Kodava (Coorgi)	Karnataka (Kodagu district)
20	Kok Borok	Tripura
21	Kumaoni (Pahari)	Uttarakhand
22	Kuruk	Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh (tribal)
23	Kurmali	Jharkhand, West Bengal
24	Lepcha	Sikkim
25	Limbu	Sikkim, Darjeeling
26	Mizo (Lushai)	Mizoram
27	Magahi	Bihar, Jharkhand
28	Mundari	Jharkhand (tribal language)
29	Nagpuri	Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh
30	Nicobarese	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
31	Pahari (Himachali)	Himachal Pradesh
32	Pali	Ancient Indian (classical, Prakrit family)
33	Rajasthani	Rajasthan
34	Sambalpuri / Kosali	Odisha
35	Shaurseni (Prakrit)	Classical Indian language
36	Siraiki	Punjab region (Pakistan)
37	Tenyidi	Nagaland (Naga group of languages)
38	Tulu	Karnataka, Kerala (coastal region)

Appendix X

Language recognised under Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman

Bhasha Samman - Regional Distribution of Non-Recognised Languages

Region	Languages Honoured (Examples)
North India	Pahari (Himachali), Kumaoni, Garhwali, Rajasthani, I
East India	Bhojpuri, Magahi, Maithili (before recognition), Angi
Northeast India	Mizo (Lushai), Kokborok, Khasi, Karbi
South India	Tulu, Kodava (Coorg), Koraga, Badaga
Central & Tribal Regions	Gondi, Ho, Mundari, Santali (before recognition)
Other Lesser-Known Languages	Nicobarese, Lepcha, Banjara, Chakma

