

MANIPUR**GAZETTE****EXTRAORDINARY
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY****No. 142****Imphal, Saturday, June 27, 2026****(Asadha 6, 1948)****GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
SECRETARIAT: SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT****NOTIFICATION****Imphal, the 26th June, 2026**

No. AB-301(4)2/2020-SW-SW: The following draft of the Manipur State Policy for Children, 2026, which the Government propose to make has been drafted by Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights after a series of consultations with different stakeholders -viz. Child Rights & You (CRY), line Departments and Social Welfare Department as the Nodal Department. A Core Committee has also examined the said draft Policy. The draft Policy is hereby published for information of all persons likely to be affected; and notice is hereby given that the said draft Policy shall be taken into consideration after the expiry of **fifteen** days from the date on which the copies of the Official Gazette in which the notification is published are made available to the public;

Objections and suggestions, if any, may be addressed to the Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Social Welfare), Government of Manipur or may be sent to email: palmeikanem@gmail.com

The objections and suggestions which may be received from any person with respect to the said draft before the expiry of period specified above will be considered by the state Government.

THE MANIPUR STATE POLICY FOR CHILDREN, 2026 (final draft)**Short Title, extent and commencement:**

1. The Policy shall be called the 'Manipur State Policy for Children 2026.
2. It extends to the whole of the State of Manipur.
3. It shall come into force on the date of publication of the policy in the official gazette.

Definition:

1. Academician: refers to a learned person, especially in humanities

subjects, having research and teaching experiences

2. “Child Rights” includes the children’s rights adopted in the United Nations convention on the Rights of the Child on the 20th November, 1989 and ratified by the Government of India on the 11th December, 1992.
3. “Children with special needs” refers to a child not less than 40% of a specified disability where specified disability has not been defined in measurable terms and also include a child with disability where specified disability has been defined in measurable terms, as certified by the certifying authority as per relevant provisions under Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016).
4. “Conflict” refers to ethnic violence, armed conflict and civil unrest.
5. “Policy” refers to the Manipur State Policy for Children 2026.
6. “Self Help Group” refer to Women Self Help Groups constituted specially for the purpose of implementing Community based Supplementary Nutrition Programme implementation.
7. “State Government” refers to State Government of Manipur.
8. “State Commission for Protection of Child Rights” refers to Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

Abbreviations:

ADC	–Autonomous District Council
AIDS	–Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ANMs	–Auxiliary Nurse Midwives
ASHA	–Accredited Social Health Activist
BLCPC	–Block-Level Child Protection Committee
CBO	–Community Based Organisations
CCI	–Child Care Institutions

CWC	–Child Welfare Committee
CPC	–Child Protection Committees
CRC	–Convention on the Rights of the Child
CMPO	–Child Marriage Prohibition Officer
CNCP	–Child in Need of Care and Protection
CLHIV	– Children Living with HIV
DCPU	– District Child Protection Unit
DLSA	–District Legal Services Authority
HIV	– Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICDS	–Integrated Child Development Scheme (now Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0)
ICPS	–Integrated Child Protection Scheme (now Mission Vatsalya, 2009)
JJB	–Juvenile Justice Board
MCPCR	–Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NCPCR	–National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
PRI	–Panchayat Raj Institutions
PLHIV	– People Living with HIV
POCSO	–Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act
RTE	– Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act
SJPU	–Special Juvenile Police Units
SMC	– School Management Committees
SRS	–Sample Registration System
SSA	–Samagrah Shiksha Abhiyan
SW	–Social Welfare
ULB	–Urban Local Body
VLCPC	–Village Level Child Protection Committee

Preamble

The Manipur State Policy for Children 2026 reaffirms the State's commitment to ensuring the rights, protection, and well-being of every child. Recognizing children as valuable assets and active participants in society, this policy envisions a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment where they can thrive *and* grow into responsible/contributing citizens. Grounded in the principles of equity, dignity, and child participation, it seeks to uphold the best interests of the child while fostering their holistic development, in alignment with constitutional mandates and international conventions.

1. Objectives and Guiding Framework

1.1. The Government of Manipur recognizes the need for the holistic development and protection of all children in the state. This State Child Policy aims to safeguard the rights and well-being of children in Manipur, with a particular focus on those facing adversity, such as lack of parental care, extreme poverty, child labour, child trafficking, sexual exploitation, children without known identity (or children whose father or parents are unknown), gender non-conforming children, and those exposed to violent situations, including armed conflict, ethnic strife, and civil unrest, etc.

1.2. The policy is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), other international conventions and instruments, and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. These frameworks affirm children's rights to be free from abuse, neglect, exploitation, trafficking, abduction, deprivation of liberty, and all forms of maltreatment.

1.3. India ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992, reinforcing its commitment to child welfare. The Constitution of India provides provisions for child protection, while the National Policy for Children, 2013, underscores the government's responsibility to offer special protection to children in need, including those facing deprivation or living in vulnerable conditions. The National Plan of Action, 2016, emphasizes the need for robust institutional support and collaboration among stakeholders to ensure the protection and development of all children. Together, these legal frameworks form the foundation for advancing children's rights in Manipur.

1.4. The policy adopts a lifecycle perspective to address the diverse vulnerabilities children face, ensuring that policies and programs:

- Address the multidimensional nature of vulnerabilities.
- Respond to evolving risks and challenges at different stages of childhood.
- Promote holistic, rights-based approaches to protect children in varied circumstances.

1.5. The policy establishes a three-tiered protective framework with the following components:

- A. **Primary Preventive Measures:** through awareness, education, advocacy, capacity building, and the enforcement of foundational protective structures and child-friendly modules.
- B. **Targeted Intervention Strategies:** through strengthening stakeholder collaboration and services to rescue and secure children in distress.
- C. **Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Reintegration:** through institutional, non-institutional and community-based mechanisms to foster psychosocial well-being and resilience.

1.6. The policy outlines a set of interconnected regulatory measures and strategies to drive positive transformation in the lives of children and families, including:

- Establishing a functional, responsive, and child-friendly protective system.
- Strengthening institutional mechanisms, encouraging sustainable community participation, and enhancing convergence among stakeholders.
- Implementing capacity-building initiatives for children, families, stakeholders, and communities.
- Designing and implementing effective communication, reporting, referral, and intervention strategies to ensure timely and appropriate responses to child protection concerns.

2. Background and Intervention Scenario

- 2.1. According to the Census of 2011, Manipur has a total population of 27,22,000, with 21.2% residing in urban areas. The state's schedule tribes population accounts for 35.1% of the total.
- 2.2. As per the Census of 2011, the child population of Manipur is 10,98,379, constituting approximately 40.36% of the state's population. Children aged 0-6 years represent 13%, while those aged 14-18 years account for 8.3%.
- 2.3. Children facing difficult circumstances—such as loss of parental care, homelessness, extreme poverty, or displacement due to natural or social crises—require urgent attention from policymakers. Their vulnerabilities are worsened by inconsistent access to social support systems, making it critical to implement policies that prioritize protection, rehabilitation, and reintegration into society. A dedicated policy framework that strengthens institutional mechanisms, improves service delivery, and promotes community-based protection measures will deliver substantial benefits.
- 2.4. There is a pressing need to advocate, educate, and empower communities to embrace child welfare laws and the Juvenile Justice delivery mechanism, replacing customary practices

that contradict the principles of reformatory and restorative justice for Children in Need of Care and Protection and Children in Conflict with Law.

- 2.5. The unregulated access to and use of digital technology (e.g., the internet, social media, and cyberspace) by children has led to increased digital exploitation and vulnerability, necessitating immediate action.
- 2.6. Children affected/infected with Hepatitis C/Tuberculosis/HIV/AIDS—particularly those who have lost parents face severe discrimination, social stigma. They are often denied their rightful inheritance by their relatives after their parent's demise, leaving them vulnerable to poverty, exploitation, and homelessness. Such children require extended support to lead dignified and healthy lives.
- 2.7. Gender non-conforming children need legal protection to ensure their rights, as enshrined in the Transgender Person (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, which recognised gender identity beyond the binary framework and which ensures amongst other rights against discrimination, access to education and healthcare and protect their right to residence.

3. Policy Objectives:

The Manipur State Policy for Children 2026 seeks to ensure that all children in the State live in a child-friendly and protective environment where their rights are safeguarded, and steps are taken to promote resilience, holistic development, and productivity. The key objectives are:

- a) **Promote Inclusive Growth and Social Equity:** Ensure that children from marginalized communities, including minority communities, CLHIVs, gender non-conforming children, and children with disabilities, have equal access to healthcare, education, and protection services.
- b) **Address Emerging Digital and Physical Challenges:** Develop targeted interventions to mitigate risks arising from emerging concerns, with a dedicated focus on cybercrime (including cyberbullying, grooming, and sextortion), substance abuse and online exploitation, children's digital literacy, well-being, and safety.
- c) **Strengthen Community-Based Protection Mechanisms:** Establish and promote local child protection committees, involving grassroots stakeholders such as panchayats, teachers, community leaders, and Women Self-Help Groups, to create a robust safety net for vulnerable children.
- d) **Enhance Mental Health and Psychosocial Support:** Provide comprehensive mental health services for children, particularly those affected by violence, sexual assault, child trafficking, organized crimes, conflict, or displacement, to foster emotional well-being and resilience.

- e) **Promote Environmental Sustainability for Children:** Integrate climate change resilience strategies into education and community programs to ensure children are aware of and equipped to respond to environmental challenges impacting their future.
- f) **Strengthen the Existing Child Protection System:** Enhance and maintain a responsive protection mechanism by fostering collaboration, coordination and convergence among multiple stakeholders working toward securing children's rights.
- g) **Ensure the Inclusive Rights of Children:** Promote child rights to survival, health, development, education, protection, and participation by reinforcing institutional structures, encouraging community participation, and fostering inter-agency cooperation.

4. Guiding Principles

The guiding principles for the policy are based on the National Policy for Children and the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015. These principles include the following:

- 4.1. Child protection is ingrained in an overarching framework that requires the cooperation and involvement of multiple actors and systems.
- 4.2. Families, communities, sub-systems, and the State form the protective layers essential for the safety and well-being of all children.
- 4.3. Ensuring basic needs and services for all children is a prerequisite for creating a protective environment.
- 4.4. Ensuring immediate access to rehabilitation and reintegration services is prioritized for children in difficult situations. This includes psychosocial care, trauma counselling, and access to essential services for recovery, social reintegration, and mental well-being.
- 4.5. The best interests of the child shall hold priority in all circumstances, particularly in decisions related to their safety from violence, exploitation, and victimization. Ensuring their dignity and participation in matters concerning their lives and future is fundamental.
- 4.6. Access to education, skill-building, supportive services, and social security entitlements should remain a priority to enhance well-being and ensure long-term development, particularly for children facing adversity.
- 4.7. The policy objectives and principles aim to fulfil preventive measures, targeted interventions, restoration, rehabilitation, and reintegration processes based on the immediate, medium-term, and long-term needs of all children, particularly those who:
 - 1. Face significant hardships due to poverty, detrimental social and customary practices, school dropouts, child trafficking, drug and substance abuse, early marriage, neglect, abuse, exploitation, societal stigmas, or inadequate access to basic services.

2. Have been directly or indirectly affected by any form of social unrest, violence, or disaster and require rescue, rehabilitation, restoration, and social reintegration.
 3. Have been deprived of basic services, including food, health, education, and developmental support, due to economic hardships, social marginalization, or other disruptions.
- 4.8. Children's vulnerabilities are not homogeneous; they are influenced by factors such as age, gender, caste, religion, disability, and social background. Understanding these diverse challenges is crucial for designing effective systemic interventions that provide protection and long-term support.
- 4.9. Girls face particular risks, including limited access to education due to safety concerns, gender-based violence, exploitation, early elopement, Child Labour and early marriage. Their access to formal education, nutrition, reproductive health, and hygiene services is often compromised. Special attention is required for adolescent girls and young mothers, who face heightened risks of sexual and domestic violence, forced pregnancy, and trafficking.
- 4.10. Children whose father or parents are unknown often face significant social stigma, discrimination, and legal identity challenges. They frequently struggle with access to entitlements such as birth certificates, citizenship documents, and social welfare benefits, which are critical for their access to education, healthcare, and overall development. These children, particularly those born to single mothers, victims of sexual violence, or children of commercial sex workers, abandoned or surrendered, require special legal protection, social support, and alternative care mechanisms to ensure their rights, dignity, and opportunities for a secure future.
- 4.11. Gender non-conforming and transgender children face unique vulnerabilities due to social stigma, exclusion, and discrimination. They are at higher risk of bullying, violence, and mental health issues, often leading to isolation and barriers to education, healthcare, and employment. Many faces rejection from families and communities, making them more susceptible to homelessness, exploitation, and trafficking. The policy emphasizes the need for safe spaces, inclusive education, access to gender-affirming healthcare, and legal recognition to ensure their well-being and rights.
- 4.12. Children who use psychoactive substances, whether due to peer pressure, trauma, or lack of support systems, are among the most vulnerable groups. Substance use at a young age affects their physical and mental health, impairs cognitive development, and increases the likelihood of dropping out of school. Additionally, they are at higher risk of exploitation, conflict with the law, and long-term addiction. The policy underscores the need for a preventive and rehabilitative approach, including awareness programs, early intervention, institutional and community-based de-addiction services, and psychosocial support for these children.

- 4.13. Among all groups, children with disabilities require particular attention. They often depend on caregivers for essential support, and any disruption in family stability due to economic hardship, conflict, or displacement can have severe consequences on their well-being. Ensuring the rights of children with disabilities and special needs remains a critical priority in all child protection policies and interventions.
- 4.14. Explicitly recognise the digital environment as an integral part of a child's life which necessitates ensuring their safety therein is as their safety in the physical world.

5. The first level under the tiered protective framework:

(A) Primary Preventive Measures: The first level of the protective framework includes proactive measures to prevent risks and vulnerabilities faced by children. These measures include:

- 1) **Community Empowerment & Awareness:** Strengthening community safety nets, empowering women and community leaders, and fostering child-friendly approaches in schools.
- 2) **Child Counselling & Education:** Provision of counselling facilities in schools through convergence between Education, Health and Social Welfare Departments, inclusion of basic child rights concepts in school curricula, and reforming customary institutions to align with child rights legislation and juvenile justice principles.
- 3) **Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation:** Provision of safe drinking water in schools, Anganwadi Centres, Child Care Institutions, and other places where children live. Provision and maintenance of adequate number of clean, gender – segregated toilets in the above mentioned places. Education of students on personal hygiene practices.
- 4) **Record Maintenance & Monitoring:** Maintenance of records by village and block-level Child Protection Committees (CPCs) and other functionaries to track children at risk, prevent family separation, and reduce unsafe migration.
- 5) **Community Participation & Budget Allocation:** Proactive engagement of Local Urban Bodies (LUBs), Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Village Authorities, and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in child protection. Allocating and sharing child protection budgets at the state, LUB, and PRI levels to strengthen community-based child protection mechanisms (e.g., VLCPC/BLCPC).
- 6) **Risk Assessment & Child Mapping:** Identification of vulnerable children and designing appropriate interventions based on risk assessments and mapping.
- 7) **Identity & Legal Protection:** Conducting birth registration drives and ensuring the safekeeping of identity documents.

- 8) **Essential Services for Vulnerable Communities:** Ensuring access to food, nutrition, emergency healthcare, rescue children from child labour, and educational services.
- 9) **Capacity Building & Sensitization:** Training teachers, health workers, and local self-government functionaries in preventive measures, life skills education, and prioritizing the needs of girls, children with disabilities, and other at-risk groups.
- 10) **Safe & Inclusive School Environments:** Allotment of a room for girl child for resting during menstruation, establishing student clubs, School Development & Management Committees (SDMCs), and other committees to enforce guidelines ensuring schools are substance-free, harassment-free, barrier-free, and child-friendly.
- 11) **Policy Enforcement:** Implementing and enforcing prescribed policies and guidelines related to school transport, including maintain a maximum student -to -van ratio aligned with transportation safety standards, hostel safety (as per NCPCR guidelines), and school building safety norms and regulations.
- 12) **Emergency Preparedness:** To train the children Dos & Don'ts in case of any disaster, promote disaster risk reduction strategies through the concerned Departments, Agencies and Institution in all places where children live.
- 13) **Access to Justice System:** Ensure that every child has access to a child-friendly and gender-sensitive justice system to achieve his/her rights and is provided free and quality legal aid to fulfil his/her right to legal representation while respecting it.
- 14) **Access to psychosocial support:** Recognize the need for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for children, adolescents and caregivers, and encourage multi-sectoral coordinated efforts towards providing a continuum of mental health services ranging from community-based to institutional services for mental health.
- 15) **Digital Literacy and Cyber Hygiene Education :** Integrate mandatory, age-appropriate digital citizenship and cyber safety modules into the school curriculum from an early age. This will include education on privacy settings, recognizing online predators, the consequences of sharing personal content, responsible social media use, and critical thinking to identify misinformation.
- 16) **Awareness for Caregivers and Educators:** To give awareness to avoid them from doing any crime in online/social media, conduct regular awareness campaigns and workshops for parents, teachers, and childcare workers to equip them with the knowledge to identify signs of online victimization, understand the digital platforms children use, and guide children safety.
- 17) **Promotion of Reporting Mechanism:** widely publicize and ensure easy access to child-friendly reporting channels for online offences such as dedicated helplines(e.g. Child line 1098), the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (www.cybercrime.gov.in) and toll-free helpline 1930), and local police cyber cells.

18) **Protection of Student Dignity in Fee Collection:** School authorities shall ensure that no student is humiliated by school staff for non-payment of school fees in time. Awareness programs shall be conducted for school bodies to prevent such practices and to uphold the dignity of all children. All forms of public shaming, exclusion from classes, withholding of report cards, or denial of participation in school activities on account of fee dues are strictly prohibited. fee-related matters must be treated as confidential administrative issues between the school and parents or guardians. No teacher or staff member shall discuss a student's fee status in front of classmates or use it as a reason for disciplinary action.

5. (B) Second Level: Targeted Intervention Strategies

The State shall ensure that vulnerable children facing exploitation, violence, child labour, human trafficking, drug abuse, armed conflict, early marriage, or any other form of distress are rescued and restored to safe and protective environments.

- 1) **Special Protection for At-Risk Children:** In accordance with the National Policy for Children, 2013, and the JJ Act, 2015, special measures shall be implemented for children who are unaccompanied, orphaned, separated from their families, or exposed to exploitation.
- 2) **Strengthening the Juvenile Justice System:** The State shall ensure the effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice System with adequate resources to ensure accessibility at state, district, and community levels, especially in rural and remote areas.
- 3) **Convergence & Coordination:** Child protection structures (e.g., CPCs, DCPUs, CWCs, JJBs) shall work closely with police, army units, CISF, and the Railway Police Force in vulnerable areas (airports, railway stations, check posts, Bus Stands) to ensure the rescue and protection of children.
- 4) **Child-Sensitive Handling of Cases:** Cases involving children shall be handled with sensitivity, prioritizing their best interests. Each case must be reported to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and nearest Police Station for immediate action.
- 5) **Legal Protection & Prosecution:** Laws under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, and other applicable legislation will be used to address child exploitation, abuse, hazardous employment, trafficking, and other illegal activities such as drug peddling, arm/weapon case etc.
- 6) **Identity Verification & Family Tracing:** District authorities shall support identity verification and family tracing for reunification.
- 7) **Confidentiality & Data Protection:** Personal data shall be handled confidentially to prevent potential risks to children.
- 8) **Communication for Missing Children:** Appropriate communication channels will be used to trace missing children, particularly in remote areas.

- 9) **Family Assessment & Reintegration:** Family assessments conducted by CWC to determine safe and supportive reintegration.
- 10) **Justice & Reparative Measures:** The State shall promote justice and rehabilitation through:
- a) Public dialogue, engagement forums, and hearings.
 - b) Compensation and assistance, including restitution for lost property.
 - c) Monetary and non-monetary assistance linked to social justice.
 - d) Community reintegration programs. and
 - e) Psychological and physical assistance.

These measures shall be framed within a well-defined policy framework to ensure uniformity, efficiency, and effectiveness in delivering justice and facilitating rehabilitation.

- 11) **Specialised Cyber Investigation Capacity:** Establish and train dedicated units within the state police, in coordination with the District Child Protection Units (DCPUs), to handle cybercrimes against children. This includes the capacity for digital forensics, undercover operations to identify online predators, and safe evidence collection from digital devices.
- 12) **Swift Takedown of Harmful Content:** Mandate a protocol for rapid coordination with law enforcement and internet service providers/social media platforms to remove and block Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) and other harmful content originating within or targeting children in the state.

5. (C) Third Level: Comprehensive Rehabilitation & Reintegration Process

This level focuses on long-term support and rehabilitation to ensure children's successful reintegration into society.

- 1) **Education & Early Intervention:** Education shall be prioritized at the earliest stage, ensuring access to the 25% free education facility in unaided private schools for children from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds (as per the RTE Act, 2009).
- 2) **Individual Care Plans:** Individual Care Plans will be developed to provide tailored support and effective rehabilitation to CNCs.
- 3) **Holistic Support Services:** This includes vocational training, aftercare services, extended medical and nutritional support for children living with Hepatitis C/Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, social security entitlements, and free legal aid for orphans and marginalized children to reclaim their denied property rights.
- 4) **Long-Term Assistance:** Children requiring ongoing support will be provided with healthcare, financial assistance, and alternative care options.

- 5) **Specialized Reintegration Programs:** Programs shall be developed for children with disabilities, abuse survivors, and those requiring long-term rehabilitation. Community-based solutions shall be encouraged as preferred approach to institutional care to ensure sustainable reintegration and ongoing support.
- 6) **Alternative Arrangements for High-Risk Children:** If reintegration poses challenges due to stigma or security risks, alternative measures such as temporary relocation, peer-support initiatives, and skill-based education programs will be explored.
- 7) **Sustained Multi-Sectoral Collaboration:** Reintegration will involve coordination across multiple sectors, resource allocation, and long-term engagement with service providers.
- 8) **Capacity Building of Care Workers:** The State shall promote the establishment of a trained cadre of care workers, supported by academicians and practitioners, to extend support services to children and families across the State.
- 9) **Psycho- social Support for Digital Victimization:** Ensure that rehabilitation services include specialized psychological counselling for children who have been victims of online grooming, sextortion, cyber bullying, or other forms of digital abuse, addressing the unique trauma associated with these crimes.

6. Commitment to Legislative Implementation

The State is committed to the effective implementation of legislation and schemes for the well-being of children, including:

1. National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005
2. Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009
3. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012
4. National Food Security Act, 2013
5. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015
6. Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986
7. Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976
8. Factories Act, 1948
9. Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles, and Infant Foods Act, 1992
10. Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994
11. Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016
12. Guardians and Wards Act, 1890

13. Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956
14. The National Charter for Children, 2003
15. National Plan of Action for Children, 2005
16. The National Policy for Children, 2013
17. Various child-focused schemes, including:
 - Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), 1975
 - National Child Labour Project Scheme, 1988
 - Swachh Bharat Mission, 2014
 - Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Now Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan), 2000
 - National Health Mission (NHM), 2005
 - Integrated Child Protection Scheme (now Mission Vatsalya), 2009
 - National Skill Development Mission (NSDM), 2015

7. Capacity Building of Stakeholders

- 1) The State shall promote awareness to women police to deal with POCSO victims and training for key functionaries interacting with children, such as Anganwadi Workers, ASHAs, school teachers, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), community health workers, local self-government officials, and child protection committees.
- 2) Training shall focus on child protection, prevention of child trafficking and forced labour, and maintenance of records to track children's movement and prevent separation.
- 3) Functionaries shall receive support to ensure continued delivery of essential services for children in distress.
- 4) Regular training sessions will be conducted for school authorities and teachers to enhance their understanding of child rights, promote positive disciplinary methods as alternatives to corporeal punishment, and foster a healthy school environment. Emphasis will also be given to the importance of nutritious tiffin options and well-regulated school canteens to support children's overall well-being.
- 5) The State shall implement skill development programs for children in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) to enhance employability and ensure livelihood.
- 6) Children leaving CCIs after attaining 18 years shall receive assistance in claiming, if required, their ancestral property through coordination with the Manipur State Legal Services Authority (MSLSA).

- 7) Cases of sexual violence against minors shall strictly be handled under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, without resolution through customary laws. Awareness campaigns will be conducted to prevent informal settlements of such cases, particularly in school, college and remote areas.
- 8) Capacity building and regular training will be conducted for the Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) and law enforcement agencies and officials of local authorities to enable the play a proactive role in identifying, preventing, and prosecuting instances of child marriage. Critical Awareness programs and advocacy shall be conducted at the community level to sensitize families, youth, and local leaders about the legal consequences and harmful impacts of child marriage

8. IMPLEMENTATION

- 1) The Department of Social Welfare shall be the nodal agency for implementing the State Child Policy, addressing operational challenges, and ensuring policy compliance.
- 2) A Consolidated State Plan of Action shall be developed to assess and guide policy implementation.
- 3) Nodal Officers shall be appointed in all key departments such as Health, Education, Labour, and Family Welfare, Youth Affairs & Sports, Industry, MSLSA, etc., in the state as well as district level for effective coordination in ensuring child protection and address challenges promptly. All coordination to be initiated from the Nodal Officer.
- 4) The State shall ensure multi-stakeholder partnerships, coordination across sectors, and adequate resource allocation for policy implementation.
- 5) A Special Task Force on Child Protection shall be established, chaired by the Secretary of Social Welfare and including key departmental representatives. Similar task forces shall be created at the district level under District Administration, Zilla Parishads and Autonomous District Councils (ADC) in hill areas.
- 6) Community-run Supplementary Nutrition Program (SNP) models will be explored based on feasibility through Mothers' Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to enhance food acceptability and women's economic empowerment.
- 7) The State shall strengthen aftercare services for children released from CCIs through collaborative initiatives.
- 8) CCIs and CWCs shall submit periodic reports on children with special needs to the Commissioner (Disability) for monitoring and support.
- 9) The Department of Home shall be responsible for protection of children from all forms of exploitation and abuse including prevention from recruitment into illicit activities, child,

family tracing including preventing child trafficking and recruitment into illicit activities and ensuring linkage with the CWC or DCPU.

- 10) The Manipur State Commission for Protection of Child Rights shall ensure compliance with child protection laws and conduct regular inspections of detention facilities to prevent illegal detention of minors.
- 11) District authorities shall oversee emergency response, relief efforts, and settlement planning for children in distress in coordination with the DCPU and other stakeholder.
- 12) The Department of Social Welfare in collaboration with Health & Family Welfare shall provide integrated services for vulnerable children, including those living with Hepatitis C/Tuberculosis HIV/AIDS and those with substance abuse issues, including establishment of Child Friendly Rehabilitation Centre for Children using Psychoactive Substances.
- 13) The Education Department shall integrate life skills, sports for development, and survival education into school curricula while promoting safe and inclusive school environments. Additionally, BOSEM and COHSEM shall facilitate the registration of students who have been abandoned or surrendered or whose parents are unknown, by recording the name of person nominated by CWC as guardian. The Department shall ensure inclusive education to gender non-conforming children in consonance with the provisions of the Transgender Person (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
- 14) Strict measures shall be enforced to prevent substance abuse, bullying, and corporal punishment in schools through mechanisms like Prahari Clubs as prescribed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
- 15) To ensure that child protection mechanisms remain relevant, inclusive, and effective, the State shall promote continuous research, survey, audio-visual documentation, and policy evaluation. Academic institutions, child rights organizations, and government bodies shall collaborate to study emerging challenges, best practices, and the impact of existing policies. Special emphasis shall be placed on marginalized and vulnerable groups, including children with disabilities, children from conflict-affected areas, transgender children, and those in institutional care.
- 16) Explicitly assign a role to the **Department of Home (Police)** in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and the Education Department for the execution of all cyber-safety related measures, including investigation, prevention programs, and capacity building of other stakeholders to prevent from committing crime against POCSO and to prevent from POCSO victims.
- 17) Propose the creation of a “**Cyber Safety Cell**” **within the proposed Special Task Force on Child Protection**” to provide expert advice and monitor trends.

- 18) The Manipur State Policy for Children shall undergo a comprehensive review every five years, with participation from all stakeholders, including children, parents, and community representatives.
- 19) Periodic social audits shall be conducted under the aegis of the Manipur State Commission for Protection of Child Rights to assess policy effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.

By Order & in the Name of the Governor,

ROBERT SINGH KSHETRIMAYUM.
Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Social Welfare),
Government of Manipur.