

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS  
WEST GARO HILLS, MEGHALAYA

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**DB Tech launched BASE program**

**TURA, March 14:** Minister of State for Rural Development, Government of India, Ms. Agatha K. Sangma, inaugurated the Bosco Academy for Skills & Employment (BASE) on 13<sup>th</sup> last at Don Bosco Secondary School auditorium Tura amidst the local MDC Mr. L.R. Ch. Momin, Rev. Fr. Joseph Almeida SDB Provincial, Guwahati Province, Rev. Fr. Raju Philip SDB Assistant Director, Don Bosco Tech. India, government officials, NGO's, students and the general public.

Funded by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and under the aegis of DB Tech BASE aims at empowering youth from Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the age group of 18-35 years. Under this project, rural youth will be trained in employment linked courses and placed in entry level opportunities in various sectors besides providing required skills suiting the market requirements and placements of the trainees. The vocational training program comprises 3 months' classroom training, on-the-job training, exposure visits and guest lectures. Fr. Raju Philip giving a snapshot of the project said BASE targeted the downtrodden and the marginalized to bring qualitative change in their lives.

In her brief address Ms. Agatha K. Sangma mentioned that China's economy is based on manufacturing industry that requires minimum skills but there is inclusive growth in the country. Whereas India inspite of being service industry based lacks inclusive growth because BPL youth cannot be employed due to inadequate skills. Therefore skills need to be imparted for the country to grow. She said programs like BASE are one of a kind programs in North East to ensure the youth specially the BPL youth to get into the mainstream. She urged everyone to take full advantage of the project.

Later, at a press briefing the Minister and the DB Tech officials informed that initially trades like Hospitality, Marketing, Security Services and IT would be launched but hoped to diversify in future. In the first phase 8 such centers would be initiated in Meghalaya. The skill development training is entirely free for a short term period of 3 months. Trainees would be counseled to help choose trades as per individual taste and preference. The Minister and DB Tech have urged the BPL youth to approach for enrollment.

Journalist

O/o Assistant Director  
Information and Public Relations  
West Garo Hills, Tura