

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

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SBI Branch inaugurated

TURA, January 24: Gambegre, the only C & R D Block of West Garo Hills without any banking facilities was today finally put on the financial inclusion map with the opening of a branch of the State Bank of India near the premises of the Office of the Block Development Officer.

The new branch signifies potential economic growth and empowerment for the people of the region who basically earn their livelihood through agricultural and allied activities. For the people of the region who otherwise have to travel all the way to Dobasipara in Tura or Garobada for their basic banking needs, the opening of a branch of the SBI in their own backward is a boon.

Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul M. Sangma who arrived at the function as the Chief Guest inaugurated the Bank in the presence of Mr. Saleng A. Sangma, Parliamentary and other dignitaries. The bank initially opened seven accounts with the Chief Minister doing the honors.

Dr. Mukul Sangma while addressing the gathering said that the opening of the branch in Gambegre was an immense accomplishment because now all the C & R D blocks in Garo Hills had a bank of its own. The Chief Minister who was extremely happy with the development however lamented that the people of the region were yet to grasp the habit of banking, savings, deposits etc and benefit from banking institutions. Dr. Mukul Sangma saying "We have to inculcate the habit of saving etc and this effort has to be jointly endeavored both by the Government and the Bank" urged the concerned administration and banks to synchronize their efforts. He also insisted concerned banks to identify products, do aggressive campaigning and interact with people before going ahead with their expansion plans to uncovered areas.

Dr. Mukul Sangma urging the people of the region to be true in their intentions while doing transactions with the bank and not to misuse funds said "The Government has paid back unpaid loans of defaulters amounting to 12 crores so that the people can benefit from various schemes allotted by the State and the Central Government". He further added that the bank was trying their best to aid the people of the region and making banking simpler by incorporating latest technologies etc (mobile banking).

Mr. Sanjay Goyal, Deputy Commissioner, West Garo Hills who chaired the inaugural function expressed his happiness and said "This is the first time Gambegre Block will be financially included and the people of this Block can avail themselves of Banking services here itself". Mr. Goyal at length spoke on the need for adequate banking facilities for disbursement of funds and schemes by the Government to beneficiaries and welcomed all those gathered to the function.

Among others present at the gathering were Mr. A Ch Marak, Project Director, DRDA, Tura, Mr. Dalton P Marak, Superintendent of Police, Tura, Mrs. A V D Shira, BDO, Gambegre Mr. Billykid A Sangma, former Minister Mr. M. Das, former MLA, Mr. P Barman, AGM, Regional Office, Shillong and Mr. K Das, AGM, Regional Office, Tura

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