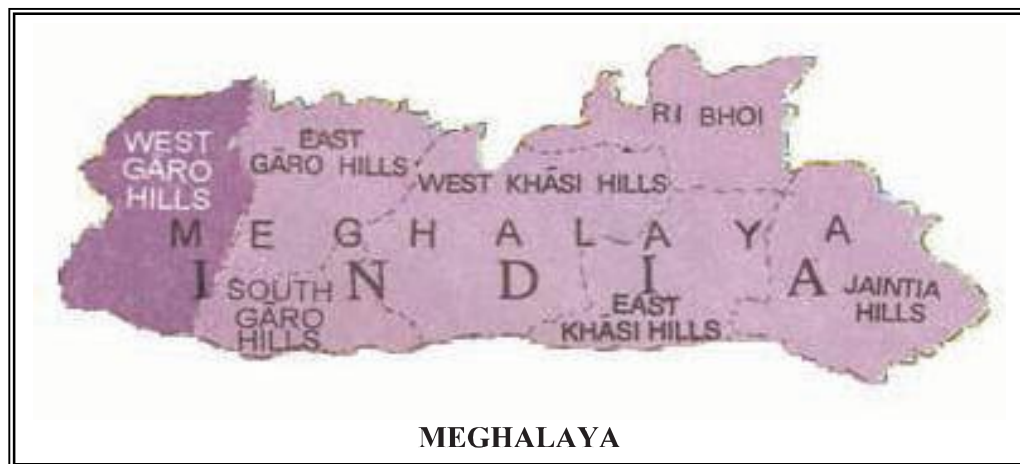


CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Profile of the District

The State of Meghalaya was created on 21 January 1972. West Garo Hills District came into being in October 1976 following the bifurcation of the erstwhile Garo Hills District of Meghalaya into two districts viz., West Garo Hills District and East Garo Hills District. West Garo Hills District lies on the western part of the State and is bounded by the East Garo Hills District in the east; South Garo Hills District in the south-east; Goalpara District of Assam in the north and north-west; and, Bangladesh in the south. It covers an area of 3,677 sq km. and lies approximately between the latitudes of $90^{\circ}30'$ and $89^{\circ}40'$ East and the longitudes of 26° and $25^{\circ}20'$ North. The headquarters of the District is Tura, the second largest town in the State after Shillong. The District, for administrative purposes is divided into eight community development blocks.



As per Census 2011, the West Garo Hills District had a population of 6.43 lakh with 5.68 lakh (88.32 *per cent*) residing in rural areas and the District accounted for 21.69 *per cent* of the State's population (29.64 lakh). Its literacy rate was 68.38 *per cent* as against 75.48 *per cent* at the state level and the national average of 74.04 *per cent*¹.

1.2 Administrative Structure for Planning and Developmental activities in the District

The District Planning and Development Council (DPDC) is the apex body responsible for formulating the district's development plans and to coordinate, monitor and review their implementation. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) is the sanctioning authority of development programmes in the District. The DC is assisted by an

¹ Census of India, 2011

Additional DC who is also the District Planning Officer (DPO) responsible for consolidating the plans prepared by the District Heads of line departments into the District Annual Plan (DAP) and submitting the same to the DPDC for consideration and approval every year.

The District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), headed by a Project Director (PD), is the principal agency at the district level responsible for monitoring the execution of various developmental and anti-poverty programmes of the central and state governments - which in Meghalaya, are executed and implemented at the level of the Blocks, Village Employment Councils and NGOs - through periodic reports, field visits to ensure effective utilisation of funds, coordination with line departments/actual implementing agencies/financial institutions, *etc.* The DRDA also maintains the accounts of the various central and state government programmes executed in the District. The DC is Chairman of the DRDA.

The administrative set up of the planning and developmental structure in the District is as below:

