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Ref:M/611

Date:15.07.2025

PRESS RELEASE

Bank Bachao Desh Bachao Manch(BBDBM) Urges West Bengal CM's Intervention to Stop SBI's Relocation of Key Operations from Kolkata

Bank Bachao Desh Bachao Manch(BBDBM) has written to Hon'ble Chief Minister Smt. Mamata Banerjee seeking immediate intervention against the State Bank of India's decision to shift its Global Market Unit (GMU), Central Global Back Office (CGBO), and three key processing centres from Kolkata.

The move violates formal agreements signed in 2000 and 2008, threatens over 600 jobs, and risks a Rs 25 crore annual GST loss to the state. BBDBM has termed the action part of a long-standing pattern of institutional withdrawal from Bengal and demanded reversal of these steps.

The letter urges the State Government to ensure full implementation of the 2000 agreement mandating 50 percent forex operations from Kolkata and to protect West Bengal's rightful role in India's banking map.

Kindly publish the contents of the letter attached in your esteemed media to raise the concerns of citizens on this sensitive issue.

Biswaranjan Ray

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Soumya Datta

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Ref:M/601

Date: 14-07-2025

To
Smt. Mamata Banerjee
Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal
Nabanna
325 Sarat Chatterjee Road
Shibpur, Howrah 711102

Subject: Urgent Appeal to Stop the Shifting of SBI's GMU and Other Core Operations from Kolkata and Protection of State Interests and Implementation of Agreements Sought

Respected Madam,

Greetings from Bank Bachao Desh Bachao Manch, a civil society forum dedicated to safeguarding the interests of common citizens and stakeholders in the banking sector.

02. Madam, we write to your esteemed office with deep consternation over the ongoing attempts by the State Bank of India to shift several of its core operations out of Kolkata. These include the **Global Market Unit** and three critical Centralised Processing Cells. These are the LCPC which handles Liability Central Processing, the CCPC which manages Centralised Cheque Clearing, and the CPPC which oversees Centralised Pension Processing.

03. This arbitrary move directly violates the tripartite agreement signed on **13 March 2008** between the bank management and both the officers' and staff federations regarding the Global Marketing Unit. That agreement clearly stated that the forex treasury would continue to operate from GMU Kolkata. In 2015 the Central Global Back Office was set up inside GMU Kolkata on the initiative of former SBI Chairman Smt. Arundhati Bhattacharya. The office was created to decentralise critical work and to strengthen the role of Kolkata in handling global banking operations.

04. It is a matter of shame that today the bank is reversing these decisions without any consultation or justification. Nearly 150 permanent staff and over 200 casual employees will lose their jobs if these departments are shifted. More than six hundred families will be directly affected. The Goods and Services Tax contribution of these units is estimated to be **Rs 25 crore** every year. This will be a direct loss to the exchequer of the Government of West Bengal.

05. It is pertinent to mention that this is not an isolated development. In **1999** the entire Dealing Room was shifted from Kolkata to Mumbai. This led to a year-long agitation by bank employees across the country. On **12th January 2000**, the bank was compelled to sign an agreement with both federations agreeing that fifty percent of forex dealing work would be done from Kolkata. Till now the bank has not implemented this commitment. If it had then Kolkata would have remained a major centre for forex operations. Other banks would have opened their dealing rooms here. Employment would have increased and the state would have earned significant tax revenue.

06. It is worthwhile to mention that over the years SBI has also shifted the Income Tax Department of the bank from Kolkata to Mumbai. The Government Accounts Section was moved from Kolkata to Nagpur and then again to Mumbai. The Balance Sheet work and the Marking Section were also relocated. The Central Accounts Office which was founded in Kolkata in 1920 was quietly moved to Mumbai. The bank has not shown this kind of approach towards any other state. The people of Bengal feel that the bank is treating West Bengal with indifference and hostility.

07. The three Centralised Processing Cells which are now proposed to be closed are running efficiently. They handle key functions like pension payments, cheque clearing and account opening. The bank has not given any reason for shifting them. These are not loss- making units. They are run by dedicated staff who serve the West Bengal, Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Their removal will damage service delivery and break long-standing institutional continuity.

08. We are also extremely disturbed that the bank did not explore the option of relocating work from other states to Kolkata. Instead, it has only taken work away from this state. This clearly shows a discriminatory approach. As a metropolitan centre and state capital Kolkata is fully equipped to handle such work. The State Government has always extended support to public institutions.

09. We, therefore, request your esteemed office to take up the matter directly with the State Bank of India top management and the Department of Financial Services. We urge you to convey the strong concerns of the people of West Bengal and ensure that the following steps are taken immediately:

- i. Stop the shifting of the Global Market Unit and Central Global Back Office from Kolkata.
- ii. Retain all three Centralised Processing Cells namely LCPC, CCPC and CPPC in Kolkata
- iii. Implement the agreement dated 12 January 2000 and restore fifty percent of forex dealing operations to GMU Kolkata.
- iv. Bring back the Income Tax Department of SBI the Government Accounts Section and the Balance Sheet work to Kolkata.
- v. Prevent any further dismantling of the banking infrastructure and institutional presence of SBI in West Bengal.

10. Let us remind you with great pride that the State Bank of India was born in this very city in 1806 as the Bank of Calcutta. That history cannot be erased. We look up to you to protect this legacy and to ensure that the economic and employment interests of the state are not sacrificed by unilateral decisions of central institutions.

We remain committed to the defence of public banking and stand ready to support all constructive efforts to protect West Bengal's rightful institutional role in the national banking framework.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



Biswaranjan Ray

9748340534

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