

Press release from Rural Development Department, Head Office, Gangtok

Two -Day Training of Trainers Programme on VB-GRAM G for State, District and Block Officials

Gangtok, 16th June (RDD): An Orientation Training of Trainers (Programme on Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) VB-GRAM G successfully concluded for batch 1 at SIRD & PR, Karfector, Jorethang.

Organised by the National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad in collaboration with the State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Jorethang, the programme had the presence of ADCs, BDOs, and ADPCs along with officials of the Rural Development Department, Head Office, Gangtok.

The training witnessed a series of technical sessions aimed at strengthening the knowledge and capacities of officials on the effective implementation of the programme.

The first day 15th June 2026 commenced with registration and an inaugural session facilitated by SIRD & PR, which included a formal welcome, introduction of participants, and a presentation of the programme objectives. A Pre-Quiz was conducted by Mr Tufan Subba and the SIRD team to assess participants' baseline knowledge.

Dr K. Lohit Das, NIRD, delivered two substantive sessions the first providing a comprehensive overview of the transition from Wage Employment Programme to VB-GRAM G, and the second elaborating upon the Institutional Architecture for implementation at the State, District, Block, and Gram Panchayat levels.

The afternoon sessions included an interactive presentation by Mr Nima Tashi, State Project Officer (SPO), on the Planning Framework for Convergence and Integrated Planning for saturation under VB-GRAM G, followed by a session on the Implementation Framework under VB-GRAM G conducted by Mr Tufan Subba, Master Trainer (MT).

The second day, 16th June opened with a session by Mr Tufan Subba, MT, on Work Execution, Work Management, and Monitoring and Evaluation under VB-GRAM G, equipping participants with tools for effective programme delivery and performance tracking.

He further led a session on Technological Interventions under VB-GRAM G, highlighting the digital tools and MIS platforms integral to the new framework. The concluding session on the Capacity Building Plan and Way Forward was handled by Nima Tashi, SPO.

Director, State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Mr Bishal Mukhia, in his address, expressed his gratitude to the resource persons and officials from RDD head office for their valuable time, support, and contributions towards the successful conduct of the training programme. He reaffirmed SIRD's commitment to organising more such capacity-building programmes in the future. Emphasising the importance of proper documentation, he urged the Block Development Officers (BDOs) to ensure systematic documentation of all completed works. He also appreciated the active participation and enthusiastic involvement of all the participants in the Training of Trainers programme.

During the valedictory session, the Additional District Collectors (ADCs), Block Development Officers (BDOs), and other officials shared their feedback and suggestions on the training programme. Thereafter, certificates were presented to the participants by the Director, SIRD, along with the dignitaries present.

The Training of Trainers programme is a key preparatory step ahead of the national rollout of VB-GRAM G, scheduled to replace MGNREGA from 1st July 2026. The Rural Development Department, Government of Sikkim, remains committed to ensuring a seamless transition and capacity-building of its field functionaries for effective implementation of the new scheme.

It may be mentioned that the Training of Trainers Programme on Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-GRAM G) will continue with subsequent sessions scheduled on 18th and 19th June 2026 for batch 2, aimed at further building trainer capacities for effective implementation of the programme.