

Press Release from Sikkim Rural **Livelihood** Mission (SRLM), RDD

District-Level Coordination Meeting Held for EC Members of WDS and BDS in Pakyong District

Pakyong, 8 September 2026: The Sikkim Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM), Rural Development Department, Government of Sikkim organised a District-Level Coordination-cum-Consultation Meeting for the Executive Committee (EC) members of Ward Development Societies (WDS) and Block Development Societies (BDS) of Pakyong District on 8 September 2026 at the RUURBAN Hall, ADC, Pakyong District.

The meeting was organised as part of the preparations for the upcoming SHG Bharosa Sammelan 2026

and the proposed distribution of Grant-in-Aid to 200 Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The programme brought together representatives of SRLM, community institutions and key stakeholders to strengthen coordination and consultation at the grassroots level.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Shri Rajen Kumar Sharma, Block Project Manager (BPM), Pakyong. The meeting was attended by Shri Rewaj Chettri, OSD to the Hon'ble Chief Minister for Entrepreneurship and Skill Development as the Chief Guest; Smt. Nim Chiki Lepcha, Chairperson, Commerce and Industries Department as the Guest of Honour Smt. Bidya Bishwakarma, Chairperson, Cooperation Department Smt. Banu Bhujel, DPM, IBCB, SMMU officials from the SMMU and BMMU teams; Presidents and Secretaries of BDSs; and EC members of WDSs and BDSs from across Pakyong District.

Addressing the gathering, Smt. Nim Chiki Lepcha, Chairperson, Commerce and Industries Department highlighted the agenda and significance of the upcoming SHG Bharosa Sammelan 2026 and emphasised the important role of SHGs in promoting collective action and community-led development.

Smt. Bidya Bishwakarma, Chairperson, Cooperation Department spoke about the proposed Grant-in-Aid support to 200 SHGs. She highlighted the importance of unity and collective efforts among SHGs in strengthening their collective voice and creating greater opportunities for rural women.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Rewaj Chettri, OSD to the Hon'ble Chief Minister for Entrepreneurship and Skill Development stated that the meetings were being organised under the directions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Prem Singh Tamang. He highlighted the importance and significance of Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic development of the state and described the organisation of the SHG Bharosa Sammelan 2026 as a significant achievement.

He further highlighted the various benefits and support extended to SHGs, including Grant-in-Aid assistance under the State Budget and emphasised the need for continued coordination and consultation with community institutions. He suggested that similar meetings with WDS leaders should be organised once every six months to further strengthen the SHG network and ensure effective communication between the government and community institutions.

He also stressed the importance of strengthening SHGs at the grassroots level as a means of promoting women's empowerment, strengthening livelihoods and contributing to the economic revival of the state. The meeting provided an important platform for interaction and consultation between government representatives, SRLM officials and community institution leaders. The discussions focused on strengthening coordination, ensuring effective participation in the upcoming SHG Bharosa Sammelan 2026 and reinforcing the role of WDSs and BDSs in supporting and strengthening the SHG network across Pakyong District.

The programme concluded with a commitment from all stakeholders towards greater coordination, collective action and continued support for the Self-Help Groups and community institutions of Sikkim.