

Rangpo, May 1: (IPR) Labour Day was celebrated today at a grand function at Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Ground, Rangpo. The programme was graced by Minister for Energy & Power and Labour Mr D.D. Bhutia as the chief guest.

On his arrival, the chief guest laid the foundation stone of Automotive Repairing Workshop at the premises of ITI Rangpo. Thereafter, he visited the stalls put up at the ITI ground by various ITIs and other industrial units to showcase their products.

Chairman, Labour Day Celebration Committee 2017 and Area MLA Mr Gopal Baraily in his welcome address gave a brief background of the labour movement in the State and the initiatives taken by the present Government for the welfare of workers. He also read out the message of the Chief Minister for the occasion.

Chief Guest for the function Mr D.D. Bhutia urged the labourers and the working class to avail the benefits and the secured environment created by the Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr Pawan Chamling. He added that the daily wage of workers has increased from a meager Rupees Twenty to the present wage of Rupees Three Hundred and Nineteen under the present Government. He urged the educated youth to train themselves to meet the burgeoning demand of work force in every sector.

Earlier, a brief report on the activities of Labour Department was presented by Principal Secretary, Labour, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Capacity Building Dr. K. Jayakumar. He maintained that Government intervention has helped ascertain dignity of labour, equality of opportunities, and just and fair treatment to labourers.

Likewise, Chairman, All Sikkim Democratic Labour Front (ASDLF) Mr Norzang Lepcha presented the annual report of the Front for 2016-17. He also placed some of the demands of the labour class before the Government.

On the occasion, Sun Pharma Laboratories Ltd, Setipool East Sikkim and Intas Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Bagey Khola East Sikkim were recognized as best establishments and were awarded the Sikkim Shram Samman. Zydus Health Care Ltd received the Industry Champion Award.

Awards and welfare items were also presented to Best Labourers from various industrial establishments and class IV workers from some Government departments. Likewise, Master Craftsmen Awards were presented to selected Instructors of Technical Institutes for excellence in their service. Similarly, certificates were also provided to crafts trainees of various ITIs. Three start-up ventures namely Hariyo Makha, Ms Dragon Industry and Beautiful Earth were also felicitated on the occasion. Two books namely National Skill Quality Framework (NSQF) and Hospitality Training Manual were also released on the occasion by the Chief Guest. As a part of testimonial and feedback, Senior VP, Intas Pharmaceuticals Ltd Mr Umesh Mishra shared his experiences of working in Sikkim. Students of ITI and other organizations lent colour to the event with folk dance performances.

The programme had the presence of Deputy Speaker SLA Mr Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, Ministers, MLAs, Parliamentary Secretaries, Panchayat representatives, officers from Labour and Skill Development Department, officers and representative from industrial establishments in the State, and workers from various industrial establishments.