Col Mahan extends support to NHPC Sewa-II contractual workers, urges management to address disparities

STATE TIMES NEWS

Chairman Development District Council (DDC) Kathua, Col Mahan Singh (Retd), today visited the NHPC Sewa-II Hydro Power Project site at Hutt Mashka and interacted with the contractual workers of the NHPC Sewa-II Majdoor Union, who have been protesting against the alleged disparities and discrimination in wages and benefits as compared to employees working in other NHPC units across Jammu and Kashmir.

The union, which has over 300 members, raised issues concerning unequal treatment in salary structure, paid holidays, overtime payments, and lack of job regularization. Expressing solidarity with the workers, Col Mahan Singh assured them of his full support and understanding of their genuine

Speaking on the occasion, Union General Secretary Satya Pal expressed deep concern over the continued injustice faced by the contractual workers of NHPC Sewa-II Hydro Project. He



DDC Kathua, Col Mahan Singh (Retd) addressing protesting employees.

said, "Our workers have been contributing tirelessly to the success and smooth functioning of the Sewa-II Project, yet we continue to face discrimination in wages, benefits, and service conditions when compared to other NHPC units across Jammu and Kashmir. This disparity is unacceptable.'

Satva Pal further stated that the union has been repeatedly appealing to the NHPC management to address these long-pending issues but has received no concrete response so far. "We are not demanding anything beyond what is fair and just.

Equal pay for equal work, timely payment of wages, paid holidays, overtime compensation, and consideration for permanent absorption are our genuine rights," he emphasized.

Col Mahan Singh said, "The NHPC management must ensure fair treatment and equal benefits for all contractual employees. These workers are the real contributors to the project's productivity and deserve the same respect and recognition as their counterparts in other NHPC units.

He emphasized that con-

bone of the power sector and their welfare should be a top priority for the corporation. Col Mahan Singh also held

detailed discussions with the General Manager and management officials of NHPC Sewa-II, focusing on issues related to wages, paid holidays, overtime payments, and the demand for permanent absorption of contractual workers

He also urged the authorities to expedite the release of the CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) project list, saying it would benefit the community strengthen NHPC's public

Yubkaran Singh, Soni Mohd, Sarpanch Madhu Bala, and several other local represen-

Union General Secretary, Satya Pal, expressed gratitude to DDC Chairman Col Mahan Singh (Retd) for visiting the project site and extending his support to the protesting work-

"We are thankful to Col Mahan Singh for listening to our grievances and assuring us of his full cooperation. His intervention has boosted our morale," Satya Pal added.

Union General Secretary urged the NHPC management and higher authorities to take immediate and positive action on their demands, warning that the workers would be compelled to intensify their agitation if their issues remain unresolved.

"We hope the management acts in the spirit of fairness and justice, recognizing the invaluable contribution of the contractual workforce to the region's power productivity."

Mohan Lal conducts surprise inspection at GDC Akhnoor, 18 out of 47 faculty members found present

Principal reported absent for five days; MLA seeks action from Higher Education Dept

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Mohan Akhnoor Bhagat conducted a surinspection Government Degree College (GDC), Akhnoor on Friday afternoon around 2:00 PM and exposed serious administrative negligence within the institu-

During the inspection, the MLA found that only 18 out of 47 members of the teaching faculty were present, while a large section of the non-teaching staff was also absent from duty. The sudden visit created a stir within the college premises, as the legislator personally interacted with students and available staff members to assess the teaching standards, attendance records, and overall functioning of the institu-

Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romilla Malla has been absent from duty for the last five consecutive days, resulting in disruption of administrative and academic functioning of the



MLA Akhnoor, Mohan Lal Bhagat conducting surprise

MLA Mohan Lal stated that the purpose of his visit was to assess the current situation of the college, identify areas that need improvement, and explore how he could contribute to the development of the institution so that students from the region - mostly belonging to humble and rural backgrounds - can receive quality higher education.

He expressed deep concern over the widespread absenteeism and called upon the Education Department to take strict disciplinary action against erring officials and staff members.

"The matter has also been

brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education and Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, Shantmanu, for appropriate and immediate action," the MLA added.

He further requested that the action taken in this regard be communicated to him to ensure accountability and follow-up.

Local residents and students have appreciated the MLA's surprise inspection, stating that such direct monitoring by public representatives ensures discipline, transparency, and accountability in govern-

Principal Prof.

Nalini Pathania, in her

address, lauded the depart-

ment for organizing such a

meaningful event. She stat-

ed that cyber security is not

only a technical issue but a

social responsibility, urging

students to be vigilant and

digitally responsible citi-

zens. She reiterated the col-

lege's commitment to

empowering students with

Ex-Servicemen meet organised by Suhanda Battalion at Khellani COB



Ex-servicemen and army officials of Suhanda Battalion at Kheelani.

STATE TIMES NEWS

The Suhanda Battalion of Delta Force organized an Servicemen Meet Khellani COB with the objective of strengthening bonds with veterans and families, addressing their grievances

ingful interaction between Army representatives and veterans, enabling open discussion on various welfare measures. A dedicated CSD counter was also set up Servicemen (ESM) to provide convenient access to essential provisions.

Servicemen and their fami-

lies attended the event. The Zila Sainik Welfare Officer, District Doda, also interacted with the veterans and took note of their concerns. The meet concluded with

heartfelt Early Diwali wishes extended to all veterans and their families. reaffirming the Army's enduring bond with its

Awareness Lecture, Skit on cyber security held at GCW Udhampur

UDHAMPUR: To mark Cyber Security Awareness Month, the Department of Computer Applications, Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur, organized an insightful awareness event aimed at educating students and staff about the growing importance of cyber safety, the threats posed by cybercrimes, and best practices for secure online behavior.

The program commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Preeti Dubey, Head of Department Computer Applications, who highlighted the urgent need for cyber awareness in an era of increasing digital dependence.

Students of the department presented a skit on



cybercrime, focusing mainly on online fraud. Through a dramatic and realistic portrayal, they illustrated the dangers of cyber deception and the importance of adopting preventive and hygienic cyber practices. The performance was widely appreciated for its relevance and educational

A special lecture was delivered by Anish Sharma, District Informatics Officer, NIC Udhampur, who elaborated on contemporary cyber threats and

digital safety. He emphasized the importance of strong passwords, secure browsing, and careful handling of personal information. Mr. Sharma also discussed government initiatives for reporting and comskills that align with national and global digital The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Rachna Bharti, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Applications, who expressed gratitude to the principal. guest speaker, faculty, and

students for their coopera-

Kathua Campus, JU celebrates Deepawali Festive Fiesta entrepreneurial spirit. She

STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: In a vibrant celebration of culture and tradition, The Management School in collaboration Department of Computer Science and Department of English at Kathua Campus, University of Jammu organized the Deenawali Festiv Fiesta

The event featured a lively Diwali exhibition showcasing a variety of handicraft stalls, decorative items, and an array of delicious eatery options. In addition, students and visitors enjoyed a range of interactive games and activities, adding fun and excitement to the festive

Professor Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu highlighted that events like the



Students and faculty celebrating Deepawali Festive Fiesta at Kathua Campus.

Deepawali Festive Fiesta provide an excellent platform for students to display their creativity, teamwork, and innovative spirit. He added that such celebrations play a vital role in enriching campus life and fostering a strong sense of community among students and faculty. Dr. Sourabh Shastri,

Head, Department Computer Science, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu also appreciated the initiative, emphasizing that such collaborative events interdisciplinary foster learning, creativity and unity among students. He congratulated the organizing teams for their com-

mendable efforts and successful execution of the event.

 $\mathrm{Dr}.$ Rajani Kumari Sarangal, Head of the Management School. Kathua Campus expressed pride amongst the students for organizing a vibrant event that beautifully blended cultural heritage with remarked that the enthusiasm and active participation of all involved made the celebration truly memorable. The fiesta served as a

dynamic platform for students to showcase their creativity, entrepreneurial talents and collaborative spirit while celebrating one of India's most cherished festi-

The event drew enthusiastic participation from students, faculty and local community members, fostering a vibrant, inclusive and joyous atmosphere.

The event also witnessed the presence of Dr. Pankaj Khajuria, Dr. Ritu Sharma, Dr. Surekha Phakwrya. Princee Verma, Dr. Sunny Sharma, Dr. Pranav Ratta, Dr. Nomita Sharma and Dr. Meenakshi Thakur.

Cyclothon Rally flagged off at Nsys GHSS Barwal to promote youth engagement



Principal Manju Bal flagging off Cyclothon rally at Nsys GHSS Barwal.

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: A Cyclothon rally was organized today by Sartai Singh (PEM) of Nsys GHSS Barwal and was flagged off by Principal Manju Bal at 11:00 AM. The event was coordinated

ZPEOBarnoti, Pardeep Singh, along with the field staff of Barnoti zone, following directions from the Joint Director of Youth Services & Sports, Jammu. The rally was conducted under the overall

SBI RSETI Ramban hosts awareness camp at Kellamorh

supervision of DYSSO Kathua, Sambyal.

The initiative aimed to encourage physical fitness and active participation among students and the youth community.

SMVDU joins first PAIR Consortium Meeting chaired by ANRF CEO at IIT Ropar



STATE TIMES NEWS KATRA Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU),

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Katra, participated in the first meeting of the PAIR (Partnerships for Advancing Interdisciplinary Research) Consortium held at the Institute Technology (IIT) Ropar).

The meeting was chaired by Shivkumar Kalyanaraman, CEO of the Anusandhan National Foundation Research (ANRF). Prof. Pragati Hon'ble Kumar, Chancellor of SMVDU, also attended and interacted with ANRF officials and consor-

tium partners. Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of the research team and expressed that this initiative will significantly enhance the research and development landscape of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.Dr. Ankush Raina, Principal Investigator (PI) from SMVDU, represented the university during the meet-

Under the Hub and Spoke model of the PAIR initiative, IIT Ropar serves as the Hub, and SMVDU acts as one of the Spoke institutions. The university has been sanctioned Rs 10.5 Crore in funding by ANRF to undertake cutting-edge research in the

Energy Materials, and Storage Systems.

Pertinent to mention, SMVDU is the only institution from Jammu and Kashmir to receive funding the Category-A under Institute bracket of the PAIR programme. The project will lead to the establishment of a state-of-the-art research laboratory at SMVDU, expected to greatly benefit researchers, scholars, and students in the region. It will also strengthen the local innovation ecosystem and promote collaboration in advanced manufacturing and materials research.

STATE TIMES NEWS RAMBAN: In a proactive

initiative aimed at empowering rural communities, SBI's Rural Self Employment Training (RSETI) Institute Ramban conducted an Awareness Camp today at Kellamorh. The camp focused on

sensitizing participants about the various skill development training programs offered by SBI RSETI Ramban and the financial assistance available under Government Schemes. Sponsored including PMEGP. JKREGP MUDRA, Mission YUVA and Mudra Yojana.

During the interactive session conducted by Senior Faculty Member, Amrik Singh Raju, participants were informed about the institute's prodesigned to enhance entrepreneurial skills, promote self-

to promote skill development, financial inclusion AWARENSS CAMP

SBI RSETI Ramban members during awareness camp at Kellamorh.

employment and improve financial literacy. The session also highlighted how SBI RSETI Ramban facilitates credit support, guidance and linkages government schemes, thereby enabling rural vouth and aspiring entrepreneurs to achieve sustainable livelihoods.

A significant outcome of the camp was the success-

ful registration of 10 participants underPradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), providing them with essential social security coverage.

The awareness camp was conducted under the leadership of Director, SBI RSETI Ramban, Harvinder Singh, who emphasized the institute's

fostering rural empowerment, entrepreneurship and socio-economic development in the region. Through such initiatives

ongoing commitment to

SBI RSETI Ramban continues to strengthen its mission of enabling selfreliance, promoting skill development and ensuring financial inclusion for rural communities.