

Press Release from Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department, Gangtok District
REPORT ON THE CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

Ranka, 16 October: The Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department, Gangtok District, celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child at Ranka Senior Secondary School, Ranka, under the theme “End Child Marriage and Invest in the Girl Child.”

The programme highlighted the importance of protecting the rights of girl children, preventing child marriage and investing in their education, health, safety and overall development. It emphasised that every girl deserves equal opportunities to pursue her aspirations, build a secure future and contribute meaningfully to society. The programme also aimed to raise awareness among students about the importance of empowering girls and ensuring a safe and supportive environment for their growth.

Ms. Manikala Gurung, Social Welfare Officer (SWO), Gangtok District, attended the programme along with her staff members, Ms. Priyanka Kharka Chettri and Ms. Kabita Sharma. The participants included the school principal, teaching staff and students. The programme commenced with a welcome address by Ms. Josim Bhutia, who welcomed the gathering and highlighted the significance of celebrating the day.

To mark the occasion, students presented cultural dances representing the rich traditions of Sikkim, including Nepali, Bhutia and Lepcha performances. Various sports competitions were also organised for senior and junior girl students, including balloon bursting, duck race, relay race, basketball and other fun activities. The competitions encouraged teamwork, participation, confidence and sportsmanship among the students.

Prizes were distributed to the winners in both senior and junior categories in recognition of their enthusiasm and participation. The celebration provided an engaging platform to promote the empowerment of girl children through education, cultural expression, sports and awareness.

The programme concluded with a renewed commitment to safeguarding the rights of every girl child, preventing child marriage and ensuring that girls receive the opportunities, support and resources they need to realise their full potential.