



# REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM

Theme: Fostering Disability-Inclusive Societies for Advancing Social Progress



*Organized by  
the Department of Special Education,  
Sikkim Alpine University  
Kamrang, Namchi, December 3, 2025*



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## Introduction

Sikkim Alpine University's Department of Special Education successfully organized a vibrant and meaningful daylong celebration on 3rd December 2025 to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The event was held at Central Park, Namchi, South Sikkim, and it beautifully aligned with the United Nations' official 2025 theme: **"Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress"**.



This powerful theme served as the guiding spirit of the entire program, emphasizing the urgent need to build more inclusive communities where persons with disabilities can fully participate in social, economic, and cultural progress. The celebration stood as a shining example of this vision in action, bringing together diverse stakeholders to promote awareness, celebrate abilities, and advocate for greater equity and support.

## Rally and Flag-Off





The rally was formally flagged off by Ms. Anupa Tamling, the respected District Collector (DC) of Namchi, South Sikkim. Her gracious participation lent official weight and inspiration to the event, symbolizing strong governmental support for disability rights and inclusive initiatives in the district. Joined by dignitaries including SDM Shri. Nim Pintso Bhutia, MEO Shri. Rajiv Rai, CEO Shri. Suraj Rai, Police Inspector (Traffic) Shri. Karma Tshering Tamang, Registrar Shri. Satyam Dixit, HoD Shri. Satyandra Kumar Jatav, and Assistant Professor & Event Coordinator Mr. Kevin John Varghese, along with faculties and students.



The program kicked off with an energetic and purposeful rally beginning at 10:00 AM from the DAC Office (District Administrative Centre) in Namchi. The rally proceeded enthusiastically through key routes, including Bhanjyang and Jorethang Roads, before culminating at the event venue, Central Park, Namchi.

Sikkim Alpine University, Department of Special Education International Day of Persons with Disabilities Program, Namchi, December 3, 2025 Celebration Sikkim Alpine University's Department of Special Education successfully organized a daylong celebration on December 3, 2025, at Namchi Central Park to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities with the 2025 year's theme "Fostering disability- inclusive societies for advancing social progress".



## Opening Ceremony

The **opening ceremony** was anchored by **Mr. Sonam Wangdi Dorjee Bhutia**, whose engaging presence guided the audience through the formal proceedings. His role as anchor ensured smooth transitions and set a dignified tone for the day's events.

The ceremony began with:

- **Lighting of the ceremonial lamp** by dignitaries.
- **Sign-language rendition of the national anthem** by students of the Department of Special Education.
- **Welcome speeches** by the Vice-Chancellor and Registrar.



### Cultural Program Highlights

The cultural program was the heart of the celebration, showcasing the creativity, talent, and inclusivity of the students of the Department of Special Education. Each performance carried a message of empowerment, cultural pride, and social awareness, leaving the audience deeply moved.

- The program featured **Nepali, Hindi, and Tamang dances**, performed by students from different semesters.
- These dances reflected the **diverse cultural heritage of Sikkim and India**, symbolizing unity in diversity.
- The rhythmic movements, colorful costumes, and expressive choreography celebrated tradition while also highlighting the participation of students with disabilities in mainstream cultural activities.





- Groups such as **Voice Unheard**, **Sirius**, **The Journey Unseen**, and **Silent Truth** staged performances that creatively addressed issues of **disability rights**, **classroom dynamics**, **policy challenges**, and **social attitudes**.



- Each drama combined storytelling, dialogue, and symbolism to portray the lived experiences of persons with disabilities.
- The performances not only entertained but also educated the audience, sparking reflection on the importance of empathy, accessibility, and inclusive policies.

- The dramatizations stood as a reminder that theatre can be a powerful tool for social change.

### Inspirational Addresses

Several dignitaries delivered impactful speeches:

- **Ms. Anupa Tamling (DC, Namchi)** emphasized the importance of inclusive education and announced her forthcoming visit to SAU to explore collaborative initiatives. She highlighted that approximately **350 of Sikkim's 16,000 school children face accessibility challenges**, and assured that the District Administration would organize an interaction with SAU's Special Education students to encourage families to seek medical and educational support.
- **Dr. Sareena Subba (Deputy Registrar, SAU)** spoke on *Nasha Mukth Bharat*, stressing the need for awareness and rehabilitation in society.
- **Mr. Karma Gyamtscho Bhutia (SSP, Namchi)** and **Ms. Lamin Theengh (Deputy Director, Tourism Department)** also shared words of wisdom, reinforcing the importance of community support and inclusivity.



### Felicitation and Alumni Sharing

- The program included the **felicitation of passed-out students**, recognizing their achievements and contributions. The felicitation was carried out by dignitaries including the DC, SSP, Deputy Director of Tourism, Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, CEO, SDM, MEO, and HoD of Special Education.
- Alumni such as **Mr. Aashish Kr. Chettri** shared their personal experiences, inspiring current students with stories of resilience and success.





## Prize Distribution Ceremony

The **Prize Distribution Ceremony** was a dignified and celebratory moment, recognizing the creativity, teamwork, and advocacy demonstrated through the dramatizations staged during the cultural program. Each drama group had poured immense effort into portraying the



realities, challenges, and aspirations of persons with disabilities, and the prize distribution served as a formal acknowledgment of their contribution. The ceremony was filled with



applause, cheers, and heartfelt encouragement. Each group walked to the stage with pride, receiving their prize amidst admiration from peers, faculty, and dignitaries. The dignitaries offered words of wisdom, reminding the students that their dramatizations were not just performances but **powerful acts of advocacy** that could inspire societal change.



This recognition reinforced the importance of **art as a medium for awareness and empowerment**, motivating students to continue using their talents to champion inclusivity and disability rights.

## Certificate of Participation and Volunteering

As a gesture of appreciation and recognition, **certificates of participation and volunteering** were awarded to **all students** from the Department of Special Education who contributed to





the success of the event. These certificates acknowledged the students' **hard work, dedication, and commitment** to promoting disability awareness and inclusive education. This recognition not only honored their efforts but also encouraged continued engagement in advocacy and community service. The students received their certificates with pride, marking a memorable milestone in their academic and personal journeys.

### Banner & Invitation brochures



## Press Release & Social media

Gangto



### Sikkim Alpine University observes World Disability Day in Namchi

#### SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, DEC 03:

Sikkim Alpine University (SAU) marked World Disability Day with a daylong program at Namchi Central Park, featuring a rally and a series of cultural and informational presentations aimed at highlighting the empowerment of persons with disabilities.

The event commenced with a rally flagged off by Namchi District Collector Anupa Tamang from the DAC Namchi premises. The gathering included SDM Namchi Nim Pintso Bhutia, MEO Rajiv Rai, SAU CEO Suraj Rai, Police Inspector (Traffic) Karma Tshering Tamang, SAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. Sushil Thawar, Registrar Satyam Dutt, and other university administrators. Students from SAU's Department of Special Education led the rally with spirited perfor-

mances, which concluded at Namchi Central Park after navigating through Bhanjyang Road and Jorehang Road in roughly 20 minutes.

At the Central Park, participants enjoyed a program of cultural performances presented by students of the Department of Special Education. The program also included dramatizations addressing policy implementation, classroom dynamics, and interview settings for individuals with disabilities, all of which were evaluated by a panel of judges.

In delivering the welcome address, SAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. Sushil Thawar emphasized that being disabled does not signify weakness and affirmed the university's commitment to empowering persons with disabilities by leveraging their talents.

District Collector An-

upa Tamang expressed gratitude to the students for pursuing Special Education studies and to SAU for launching the program. She noted the range of disabilities-21 types and highlighted that around 350 of the roughly 16,000 schoolchildren in Sikkim face educational or accessibility challenges. Tamang stressed that the existing systems are designed to ensure that persons with disabilities can avail the rights accorded to every citizen. She also pointed out the persistence of unfulfilled government positions due to gaps in Special Education and suggested that some families might consider homeschooling options for children with disabilities. "Every child with disabilities has the right to become who they wish to be in the future," she asserted.

Tamang announced that the District Administration Office would organize an interaction with SAU students pursuing Special Education studies and urge parents facing hardship to seek support from the district authorities, including the Namchi DC or the relevant BDOs, for medical and educational assistance.

Despite these strides, SAU officials, including the Registrar, the Head of the Department of Special Education, and department alumni acknowledged that awareness of Special Education in Sikkim remains inadequate. The Registrar noted that while integrated programs for persons with disabilities are in place, many other inclusivity measures are still lacking. He indicated that SAU intends to align its Special Education curriculum more closely with the Government of Sikkim's policies in the near future.



Namchi, December 03: Sikkim Alpine University (SAU) on the occasion of the World Disability Day, organizes a daylong event in Namchi Central Park. ... See more

## Conclusion

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities celebration at **Sikkim Alpine University** was a resounding success, blending advocacy, culture, and community engagement into a single, memorable day. From the rally to the cultural performances, from the inspirational speeches to the prize distribution, every segment reflected the university's unwavering commitment to **inclusive education and social progress**.





The event not only showcased the talents and voices of students but also strengthened collaboration between the university, district administration, and the wider community. It stood as a powerful reminder that inclusion is not merely a policy it is a lived practice that uplifts individuals and transforms society.

By honouring students with certificates of participation and volunteering, and recognising drama groups through prize distribution, the program reinforced the values of **recognition, empowerment, and encouragement**. The presence of dignitaries and their words of wisdom further highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in advancing disability rights and fostering inclusive societies.

**Prepared by Kevin John Varghese, Assistant Professor, Department of Special Education, on December 3, 2025, to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.**

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