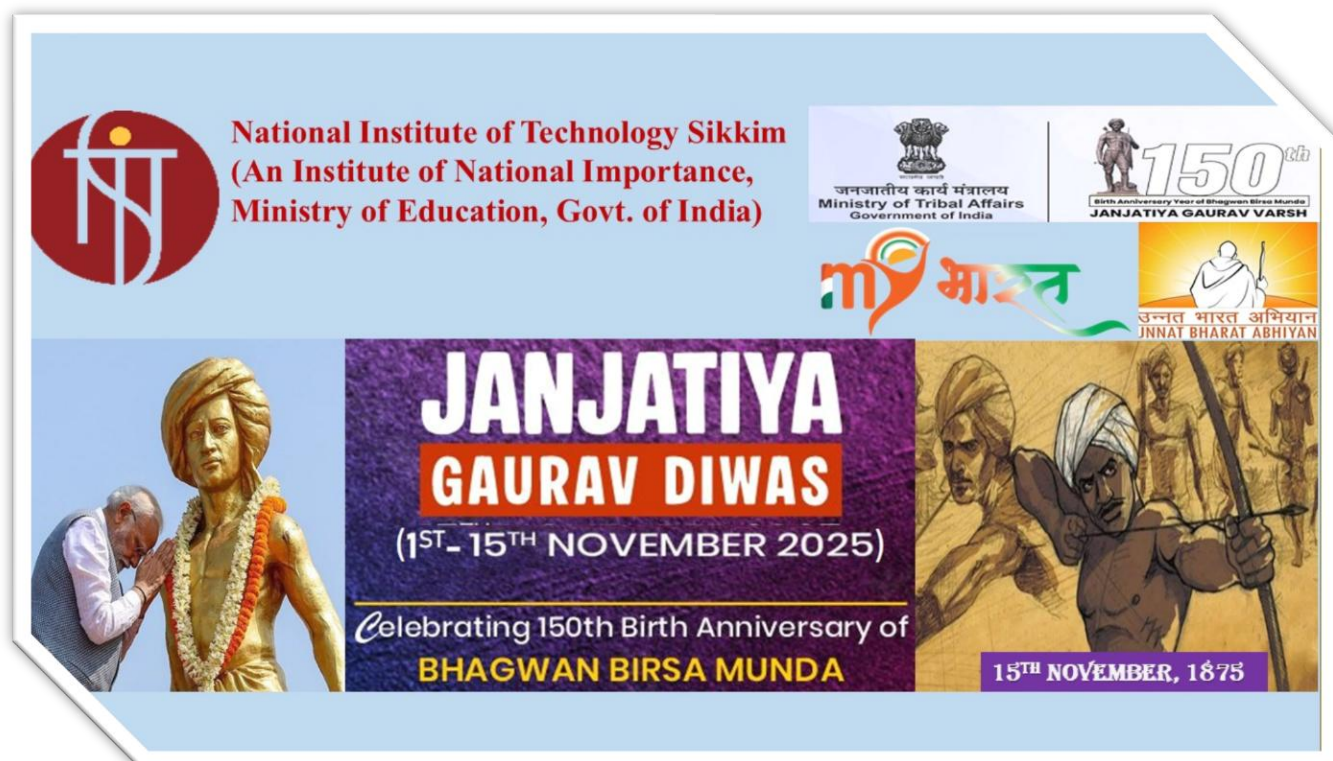


A BRIEF REPORT
ON
CELEBRATION OF JANJATIYA GAURAV DIVAS 2025
On 150th Birthday of “Dharti Aba” Bhagwan Birsa Munda



15th November, 2025



UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAAN
Regional Coordinating Institute
National Institute of Technology Sikkim

The Janjatiya Gaurav Divas

The birth anniversary of the legendary tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda is observed as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, or Tribal Pride Day, on 15th November each year. The day is dedicated to spreading awareness among the younger generations about the invaluable sacrifices made by tribal heroes during India's freedom struggle.

Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas serves as a national tribute to the tribal communities for their steadfast efforts in safeguarding their rich cultural heritage and upholding timeless Indian values such as national pride, courage, unity, and hospitality. Throughout history, tribal groups across India have led numerous courageous uprisings against British colonial rule, demonstrating extraordinary resilience and commitment to protecting their land, identity, and freedom.



Some of the Tribal Heroes of Freedom Fighters:

1: Birsa Munda:

- Birsa Munda born on 15th November 1875 was a member of the Munda Tribe of the Chhota Nagpur Plateau.
- He was an Indian freedom fighter, religious leader, and folk hero.
- He spearheaded an Indian tribal religious Millenarian movement during British rule in the late 19th century across the tribal belt of modern-day Jharkhand and Bihar.
- The tribals were quickly demoted from Landowners to laborers under the zamindari system, which resulted in Birsa taking up the cause of the Adivasis.
- A legendary tribal icon, Birsa Munda led the **Ulgulan Movement**, fighting against the oppressive British policies and missionary activities. He united the Munda tribes and dedicated his life to safeguarding their land and cultural rights



2: Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu:

- Leaders of the **Santhal Rebellion (1855)**, they organized thousands of Santhals to revolt against the British and oppressive zamindars. Their uprising is considered one of the largest tribal revolts in history.
- On **30th June 1855**, two years before the historic Revolt of 1857, the valiant Santhal brothers **Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu** mobilized nearly **10,000 Santhals** and declared an uprising against British rule.
- The tribal community united under a solemn oath to free their homeland from colonial oppression. Alongside the Murmu brothers, their courageous sisters **Phulo and Jhano** also played a significant and inspiring role in the rebellion.



3: Shri Alluri Seetha Ram Raju:

- He was born on 4th July, 1897 in a village called Mogallu near Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh.
- Leader of the **Rampa Rebellion**, he mobilized tribal people of Andhra Pradesh to fight British forces using guerrilla warfare strategies.
- These leaders, along with countless unsung tribal heroes, laid the foundation for resistance and inspired modern India to recognize and respect the cultural identity and rights of indigenous communities.
- He was inspired by the revolutionaries of Bengal to fight against the British government.



4: Rani Gaidinliu:

- She was a Naga spiritual and political leader who led a revolt against British rule in India. At the age of 13, she joined the Heraka religious movement of her cousin Haipou Jadonang.
- For her, the Naga people's journey to freedom was part of India's wider movement for freedom. She also spread the message of Gandhi ji in Manipur region.



5: Tantya Bhil:

Known as the “Robin Hood of Central India,” Tantya Bhil fearlessly fought against British exploitation and injustice. His resistance symbolized bravery and the spirit of rebellion.

His deep connection with nature, mastery of guerrilla warfare, and unwavering commitment to protecting tribal rights made him a symbol of bravery and justice. Tantya Bhil's legacy continues to inspire tribal communities, reflecting the spirit of resistance and the quest for dignity and freedom.

Celebration at NIT Sikkim:

Regional Coordinating Institute (RCI) under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), NIT Sikkim, celebrated **Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas** on **15 November 2025** with great enthusiasm, commemorating the **150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda**, one of India's most revered tribal freedom fighters. The programme, organized by the **UBA Cell of NIT Sikkim**, was designed to honor the extraordinary contributions of tribal leaders in India's struggle against colonial rule, promote cultural awareness, and strengthen the ideals of unity, diversity, and national pride among students. The celebration reflected NIT Sikkim's commitment—through its UBA initiatives—to preserving indigenous heritage, acknowledging tribal history, and fostering meaningful socio-cultural engagement within the academic community.



Organized in collaboration with **Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) Ravangla** and the **Tibetan School, Ravangla**, the event created a vibrant platform for cultural exchange and meaningful interaction among students of different institutions.

As part of the observance, short documentary films, video clips, and an informative PowerPoint presentation on notable tribal freedom fighters—including Bhagwan Birsa Munda—were showcased. The celebration paid heartfelt tribute to countless tribal heroes who safeguarded their cultural identity and played crucial roles in India's freedom movement, while also inspiring the younger generation to value and preserve the rich indigenous heritage of the nation.



A variety of engaging activities were organized as part of the celebration, including a short speech competition on the theme *“Contribution of Janjati Heroes During the Freedom Struggle of India”* and an open quiz competition for the students of the Institute, with prizes awarded to the best performers. Students enthusiastically participated by presenting songs, talks, poems, and storytelling pieces based on the lives and contributions of tribal heroes. The event also featured captivating cultural performances, among which Sikkim’s



famous **Yak Dance**, gracefully presented by the students of the Tibetan School, emerged as the highlight of the day, drawing admiration from the entire audience. The students of JNV Ravangla added to the vibrancy of the occasion with a beautiful dance performance reflecting the rich cultural diversity of India. Additionally, the young learners from the Tibetan School delivered an informative PowerPoint presentation on **His Holiness the Dalai Lama**, offering valuable insights into his life, teachings, and global contributions. The session proved highly enriching and broadened the understanding of all attendees.



The programme was enriched by an inspiring address from the Director, **Prof. Mahesh Chandra Govil**, who emphasized that *Janjatiya Gaurav Divas* is a meaningful occasion to celebrate and take pride in the rich tribal culture and heritage of our nation. He highlighted that the contributions of **Bhagwan Birsa Munda** and other tribal freedom fighters will always be remembered, cherished, and admired for their unmatched courage and sacrifice. The Director also appreciated the efforts of the **UBA Cell, NIT Sikkim**, for organizing the celebration with such dedication and enthusiasm. He commended the UBA Cell for its active involvement in promoting cultural awareness, social responsibility, and community-centric initiatives within the Institute. Prof. Govil encouraged students, faculty, and staff to continue acknowledging, honouring, and disseminating the invaluable legacy of these great *mahanayaks* who played a pivotal role in India's independence.

In his inaugural address, the Director highlighted the importance of culture, heritage, and identity in the modern era. He emphasized that while technological progress is essential, cultural wisdom and traditional knowledge systems continue to guide society toward sustainability and harmony. He also paid heartfelt homage to Bhagwan Birsa Munda and numerous tribal leaders whose sacrifice, courage, and resistance laid the foundation for India's freedom. The Director further encouraged students to learn from the values of the tribal communities—simplicity, bravery, environmental stewardship, and community living—as these values hold great relevance in addressing the challenges of today's world. His words set a thoughtful and inspiring tone for the celebration.

The celebration of Janjatiya Diwas at RCI, NIT Sikkim on the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda was a resounding success. The active participation of students from NIT Sikkim, JNV Ravangla, and the Tibetan School made the programme meaningful and enriching. The event paid a fitting tribute to tribal freedom fighters and emphasized the timeless importance of cultural heritage.

The institute reaffirmed its commitment to promoting cultural understanding, national pride, and inclusive growth through such initiatives.

