

ANNUAL REPORT OF BETHUNE COLLEGE FOR THE SESSION 2016-17

As Principal of this college, I take great pleasure in presenting before this august assembly a brief report of activities and achievements of the College during the session 2016-17. As the First Women's College in Asia, this institution began its journey in 1879 with only one student Kadambini Basu who subsequently went ahead to become the first female physician in South Asia. Today the College leads innumerable girl students from different social strata to being a generation of Indian women who, inspired by their glorious heritage would combine dignity with forthrightness, have minds that are truly illuminated, and can become dynamic, mature and large hearted citizens of the world in the truest sense of the term.

Reaccredited in 2015 with the 'A' grade by the NAAC, Bethune College celebrates years of quality enhancement and sustenance. With generous help and encouragement of the Governing Body, administrative and financial assistance from the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal and constant cooperation from all the stakeholders, Bethune College has played a major role in contributing to the cause of women in the country, producing empowered and enlightened individuals.

STUDENTS We begin with our most important stakeholders, i.e., our students. Bethune College is proud of its students who excel in every sphere. The college encourages the students to participate in co-curricular as well as extra-curricular activities in order to provide holistic education. The college has 16 undergraduate departments and offers postgraduate studies in 6 departments. For the session 2016-17, our student strength combining the undergraduate and postgraduate streams is close to 1300. In keeping with the norms of the Higher Education Department and Calcutta University, our admission procedure is conducted online. In this session, the total number of seats in the undergraduate departments has been increased to 544 against last year's 500 seats. The increase is primarily made to comply the OBC reservation norm of the Government of West Bengal. The college maintains reservation of seats according to Government norms. During the last academic session, the college has reintroduced admission tests for English and Bengali Honours courses. The Admission Committee needs to be complimented for their effort to make education funding to be as productive as possible by taking special initiative to fill up vacant seats. For this purpose, the college obtained special permission from the University for the final phase of admission after the last date stipulated by the University. No cash was collected at college during admission in this session. Admission Fee was collected online through State Bank of India.

The Academic Calendar of the college has been reframed according to the revised Calcutta University academic calendar. The college has also adjusted its academic schedule according to the University schedule.

Following the usual practice of our college, **Orientation Programme** for the First years was duly held on July 11, 2016. Professor Asutosh Ghosh, erstwhile Dean, Faculty Council for Postgraduate Studies in Science, now Vice Chancellor, University of Calcutta, and Inspector of Colleges Shri Debashis Biswas graced the occasion and inspired the students.

UG Results: The students of this college have performed commendably in the University Examinations. The results of the 7 undergraduate Arts departments of the college offering honours course during the session 2015-16 was consistently good with as many as 30 students obtaining first class in B.A. Part III

Honours examination and in the 8 undergraduate science departments, 106 students were placed in the first class in the B.Sc. Part III Honours examination. We take special pleasure in mentioning that a great number of our students have secured ranks at the university level in the B.A./B.Sc Honours Final Examination 2016. Our students from the **Philosophy** department secured **1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th and 11th ranks**. Also our student from History department has secured the **First rank** in the University. Amongst the science departments, students of **Chemistry** secured the **1st and 2nd positions** whereas a student of **Psychology** was ranked **3rd** in the C.U. Final Examination. **From the Computer Science department, three students were placed in 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions in the B.Sc Honours Part I examination. A student from Statistics department secured third rank in Calcutta University B.Sc. Part I (H) Examination, 2016. (all other depts have submitted ranks of final exams, only statistics and comp sc have submitted part I ranks)**

We are also happy to put on record that more than 330 **ENVS project** reports were submitted by the outgoing students this year, all of which were evaluated with A grade.

To turn from undergraduate to postgraduate activities, worth mentioning are several reforms that have been introduced in the postgraduate departments in this session including substantial revisions of the syllabi. All PG departments have been brought under semester system of evaluation since session 2015-16. A uniformly formatted final marksheet and certificate has been approved for all the postgraduate departments. A provision for transcript on demand has been introduced from this session. The Internal Audit Committee has completed the scrutiny of transactions of the postgraduate departments for the last session.

Like our UG students, postgraduate students have also excelled in their academic performance with as many as **63** securing **first class marks in the six postgraduate departments**. We are proud to mention here that many of our students have successfully cleared competitive examinations like NET, JAM, GATE and have joined prestigious educational institutions, IITs and corporate offices in various capacities.

Academic Activities of Students:

The Institution takes several steps to nurture critical thought, creativity and scientific approach among the students. The students and teachers of all departments are encouraged to participate in various academic activities to facilitate learning beyond textbooks. Postgraduate students of the Botany department presented three posters in the International Conference on "The Green Planet: Past, Present and Future" in December, 2016 at Department of Botany, University of Calcutta. Six 1st year students of the Physics department participated in C. K. Majumdar Memorial Workshop on Experimental Physics jointly organized by Bangabasi College and Indian Association of Physics Teachers (IAPT) in December 2016. Also students of 1st year participated in the Inter College Physics Quiz Competition organized by Ramakrishna Mission Residential College, Narendrapur where our college team secured fourth position among 60 participating teams. Our students of the department of Statistics were selected for participation in Mathematics Training for Undergraduate Students, organized by Dept. of Statistics, University of Calcutta and National Workshop on Mathematics in the Arena of Statistics, organized by Dept. Of Statistics, Presidency

University. Undergraduate students of Chemistry department participated in the Workshop titled “Loksure Lokshilpo” at Jorasnako Thakurbari.

Just a week ago, 4 students from Chemistry department accompanied by a teacher Dr. Supriti Pal participated in XXX Training Programme on Science at Bose Institute, Kolkata, jointly organised by Indian Science News Association and Vigyan Prasar, DST, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

Students’ Seminars are conducted to inculcate independent critical thinking as well as collaborative learning among the students. In the 2016-17 session, two Students' Seminars have been organized by the Postgraduate Department of English titled '**Reading Texts Critically**' and '**Interrogating Orientalism**'.

SEMINARS

To enhance the teaching learning process, the college has encouraged all departments to organize seminars, invites lectures and workshops in various disciplines.

A **One Day National Seminar** organised by the department of **Chemistry** on “*Recent Advances in Life Science in the Light of Chemistry*” in collaboration with Royal Society of Chemistry (Eastern India Section) was a grand success. Amongst the illustrious resource persons were Dr. Jyotirmayee Dash, Associate Professor, Department of Organic Chemistry, IACS, Jadavpur, Kolkata, Dr. Sagar Pal, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Chemistry, ISM Dhanbad (IIT), Dhanbad, Jharkhand and Dr. Ambika C. Banerjee, Former Corporate Advisor - R & D, East India Pharmaceuticals Works Ltd. A poster competition was also arranged among the UG, PG and research scholars of various institutions where a group of 3rd year UG students of our chemistry department was awarded the **Best Poster**.

The **Zoology** department arranged a talk on Recent Advances in Animal Science Research, delivered by Dr. Indranil Banerjee, **Novartis Presidential Fellow** (Cell Fate Engineering Scientist), Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research, Switzerland.

Physics department conducted the **Ananta Kumar Sarker & Snehalata Sarker Memorial One Day Seminar for the Advancement of Knowledge in Physics**. **Prof. G. P. Das**, Senior Professor, Department of Materials Science, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science and **Dr. Debi Prasad Duari**, Director (Research and Academic), M.P. Birla Institute of Fundamental Research, were the resource persons.

The **English** Department organized a seminar lecture on 'Modernism and T.S. Eliot' in December 2016, delivered by **Professor Chinmoy Guha**, eminent academician and Professor, Dept of English, University of Calcutta. On this occasion, a poetry wall, prepared by the students, was inaugurated by Professor Guha. A lecture titled “Hindi Sahitya: Vartaman Paridrishya” was organised by **Hindi** Department. The department also observed Premchand Jayanti. A talk titled Tagore's concept of Beauty delivered by Dr. Pritha Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Rabindra Bharati University was organised by **Philosophy** department. Sanskrit department organised two lectures delivered by eminent academicians Sheikh Sabir Ali of West Bengal State University and Smt. Rina Dutta of Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture.

A seminar titled “Tinkering Secondary Metabolism through *in vitro* manipulation” was organised

by the **Botany** department, with Dr. Abhijeet Bandyopadhyay, Associate Professor, Department of Botany, University of Burdwan as the speaker.

Co Curricular Activities:

The college duly encourages, informs, motivates and helps students to participate in various competitions. Four of our students participated and received Institute level certificates in an Inter-college Essay competition organized by United Nations Information Centre and Sri Ramchandra Mission, Kolkata.

A first year student of English Honours, represented our college in an invited speech on the occasion of World Values Day on October 20, 2016 at Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark in the presence of Honourable Governor of West Bengal. Another student of Third year in the department of English, represented our college in a panel discussion on "Priority of Planning a Career at high school and the dilemma of the learners" held at Vivekananda Hall, Kolkata organized by the Institute for Inspiration and Self Development. A student of the Hindi Department participated in NCC Annual Training Camp twice in this session. A students from the Hindi department participated in Maithili Geetgayen Pratiyogita-2016 organised by Maithili Vikas Parishad of West Bengal and achieved 1st position.

Excursions and Academic Tours: The teaching learning experience in the college is not confined to the four walls of the classroom. The dissemination of knowledge continues in the form of excursions and field trips. The Botany department organized two excursions, one with PG II students to Kerala in April, 2016 and another with UG II students to Darjeeling in November 2016. Department of Zoology arranged a field trip to Chintamani Kar Bird Sanctuary with Post graduate students and to Paschim Banga Poultry Mela-2016 with UG III students. Departments of Physics, Chemistry and Computer Science also took their students for a day trip. Three teachers of the English department attended a performance of *Look Back in Anger* with UG I and UG III students in the Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata in December 2016. Students of Post Graduation (Semester III) of Psychology Department went for Industrial visit to India Power (Dishergarh Power Plant) in November, 2016.

Extra Curricular Activities of the Students

Our students have made us proud by their extra curricular achievements. In Women's Badminton, our students won the **Champion's trophy in the West Bengal Inter College District Sports Championship, 2016** and secured the Runners up place in the State Championship. Tanya Kundu of Hindi department was adjudged **the Best female Badminton Player of West Bengal.**

Our students also participated in various events of Athletics in West Bengal Inter College District Sports Championship, 2016. Sankalita Dey of English Department won the **gold medal in Women's High Jump. Priyadarshini Das**, a 1st year student of the department of Philosophy has secured **top rank in National level Table Tennis Championship.** She is also the most promising sportsperson of Bethune College for the year 2016. Priyadarshini's achievements include: **Gold Medal in West Zone Youth Girls' Singles Championship, Silver Medal in East Zone Youth Girls' Singles Championship, Silver Medal in Youth Girls' Doubles Event in 78th Junior & Youth National and Inter State Table Tennis Championships**

2016-17, Gujarat. She also won the **Bronze Medal as a member of Youth Girls' Team in the same tournament.**

Ethics and Value Education: For all round development of our students and to create awareness and commitment to moral values, Bethune College offers a certificate course in Ethics and Value Education. During the last session, three lectures were delivered by eminent scholars from diverse fields. The First Lecture was delivered by Dr. Gautam Bandopadhyay, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, Bethune College. The other eminent resource persons were Sri Parthasarathi Sengupta, Senior Advocate of Kolkata High Court & Dr. Jhuma Chakraborty, Associate Professor, department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University.

NSS

The importance of community service is impressed upon our students as it is our mission to impart holistic education, creating women who can contribute to the well-being of society. The NSS wing of the college involves the students in varied social activities. For example Nutrition and Health Awareness Programme was organized by the NSS unit of the college in collaboration with the Department of Home Science, University of Calcutta, on 29.3.2016. Professor Santa Dutta (De), Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts, Music and Home Science, University of Calcutta delivered a lecture on nutrition on that day.

Dr Kazi Layla Khaled and Dr Binita Nayek, expert dieticians, conducted individual sessions in Nutrition and Health camp programme providing advice regarding healthy lifestyle. The NSS unit also organised a Thalassaemia Awareness Programme on 21st September, 2016 with Dr. R. Homchaudhury, Medico-Social Activist and Eminent Orthopedic Surgeon as the speaker. Students of the college attended NSS orientation programme organised by NSS Unit of Calcutta University on 11th November 2016.

Cultural Activities: In keeping with the multifaceted spirit of the institution, various cultural activities were conducted throughout the year with enthusiastic participation from the students. Like every year, **Republic Day** and **Independence Day** were celebrated with drill and march past by students followed by a cultural programme. Along with this, on these two days, the different clubs in the college, like Photography Club, Art & Craft Club, and Literary Club exhibited their work in the college premises. In both the occasions exhibitions were also displayed by the members of Painting and Handicraft Club, Literary Club and Photography Club. On the occasion of Independence Day, the theme of the exhibition was '**Save the Earth**', while on the occasion of the Republic Day, it was '**India Today**'. **Rabindra Jayanti celebration** by students this year included a cultural programme and filming of Satyajit Ray's documentary film on Rabindranath Tagore.

The **Intra College Competitions** were held on September 10, 2016 this year with an overwhelming number of participants in all the categories. Results of the events were formally announced and prize distribution for intra-college events was held on September 29, 2016. The Chemistry department was declared the champions.

Fest – The Annual Fest AALAP 2016 was held on 21st December, 2016 where students from different

colleges participated making it a grand success. Apart from the usual events like Eastern Vocals, Debate, Quiz, this year **two new events namely, Non Fire Cooking and Street Play were introduced**. Celebrity judges like Sudipa Chatterjee and Chitra Sen judged the participants. Three books published by Bakchakra Publishing House were inaugurated by the Principal. **Bethune College was declared the Champion.**

Sports – The Annual Sports was held on the 17th and 19th of December, 2016. Celebrated Sports personality and Arjuna Awardee Table Tennis player Smt Paulami Ghatak was the Guest of Honour. The Department of Psychology was declared the Champions. Marsha Sabreen Rahman of the department of Psychology was selected the Individual Champion in the Bethune College Annual Sports, 2016. This year, the Annual Sports event was a grand success with participation from huge number of students, alumna, teaching & non-teaching staff along with their children. We especially acknowledge the untiring efforts of our retired Physical Instructor, Smt Nupur Khadder for her continued involvement with various college activities.

Election & Students' Union

The Students' Union for the session 2016-17 was formalised after the Students' Election which was held after maintaining all formalities related to the election. Prior to the election, the Students' Body helped in the Intra College events, Fest and other college activities to the utmost satisfaction of the teachers.

Student Support: Facilities available to students

Infrastructural Support:

Construction of light vertical structure on the roof top of Kadambini Bhavan has begun. The new floor will accommodate seven to eight new classrooms and a new laboratory. Upgradation of Chemistry Laboratory is on the verge of completion.

Keeping in mind the safety of the students, teachers and non teaching staff of the College the gas cylinders kept at the Department of Chemistry have now been shifted to a separate chamber outside the Department.

Construction of Ladies Hostel at Salt Lake City, Sector I has begun. Earlier the plan was sanctioned for G+5 storeyed building, now it has been revised to G+ 9 storeyed building. We are very happy that the hostel will be able to accommodate approximately 210 students of which 30-40 seats will be reserved for the PG students. The final phase of work of the Auditorium is to be completed very soon.

For the motivation of our students, the college has a number of welfare schemes. The Government of West Bengal has introduced the **Kanyashree** scheme for improving the status and well-being of the girl child and under this scheme female students are awarded scholarships. The College encourages the students to apply for the scholarship. **During the last session (2015-16), a total of 52 students have been sanctioned the Kanyashree grant of Rs. 25000.**

Under other Welfare schemes of the government, **115 students** have benefitted from the half-

freeship for tuition fees on merit-cum-means basis during the current session. Financially weaker students who fulfil the criterion for free studentship set by the Government of West Bengal Higher education Department receive financial aid from the **Student-Aid Fund** run exclusively by the teachers and different **Endowment Funds**. This year, 18 third year students have received half tuition fees and full exam fees and 18 second year students have received half tuition fees and full exam fees. From the **First year, 38 B.A students and 16 B.Sc students have also received half tuition fees and full exam fees. Excursion grant** has been given to two Botany P.G students. **Special grants** have been given to 5 students in view of their poor financial condition.

Apart from motivation to perform well academically, the college also looks into the psychological well-being of the students. The teachers of the Psychology department provide **psychological counselling** to the students in times of need.

The College **Library** that has a rich collection of about 1,00,000 (one lakh) books and journals. These include some rare and priceless books and journals thereby making the library a veritable learning resource for our students. In this session, the Library purchased books and journals worth **Rs. 1,92,000 from RUSA funds**. The library software was also upgraded with RUSA grant. The Library also provides access to various scholarly journals through a subscription to Inflibnet.

Multi Facility Centres for Arts and Science were set up to facilitate higher studies and research activities among students. Regular film shows pertaining to the syllabus have been organized in the **Multifacility Centre for Arts**. Students have benefited immensely from this initiative.

The **Multifacility Centre for Science** incorporates cutting edge instrumental facilities for research both at doctoral and post-graduate levels in bioscience. This DST-FIST sponsored centre is equipped with modern sophisticated instruments like UV-visible spectrophotometer, High Performance Liquid Chromatogram, Laminar Air flow, Leica microscope, Biochemistry analyser and centrifuge. Some instruments purchased from the grant of RUSA are also being operated from this centre. A number of Postgraduate students have performed their project work from this centre including **two M. Sc. students of Environmental Science from Ashutosh College, Kolkata**. Two scholars completed the last part of their thesis work in the Multifacility Centre and were awarded **with doctorate degree under the supervision of Dr. Rina Rani Ray**.

To acquaint the students with various job prospects, the **Career Counselling Cell** of the college is constantly engaged in guiding the students towards a career and is also involved in off and on-campus recruitment of the students of Bethune College. In the academic session 2016-17, Ten students of the UG outgoing batch got selected in the on-campus selection drive by TCS, Six were selected in off-campus selection drive by WIPRO and Two were selected in on-campus selection drive by COGNIZANT. The cell organized two **pre-campus selection seminars** during this period: one by ICICI Bank and YES Bank in February 2016 for the 2015-16 outgoing batch, and another by TATA Consultancy Services in January 2017 for the 2016-17 outgoing batch. **Workshops on Communicative English** were also organised that were conducted by teachers of the Post Graduate Department of English, Bethune College.

Career Counselling Seminars and Workshops: The cell also organized three career counselling Seminars/workshops during this period: One seminar on *How to prepare yourself for an interview* in February 2016, the speakers of which were Dr. Bibhas Chowdhury, Director, Eastern Zone, National Sample Survey Organisation & Mr. Sandip Kar, Regional Head, YES Bank, Kolkata. The second was on *The Scopes and Prospects after Graduation* in January 2017, by GLOBESYN Business School and Career Launcher Educate Limited. It had three separate sessions on Higher Studies, Corporate Jobs and Competitive Examinations for Government Jobs.

In this connection, we may mention that most of our students opt for higher studies and so they do not take up jobs immediately after graduation, though many of them get selected in these recruitment drives.

The college administration keeps constant vigil on healthy lifestyle of the students and ensures that hygienic & nutritious food is served at a subsidised rate. According to UGC Circular no. 14-24/2016 (CPP II), junk food has been prohibited in the college canteens. The canteen committee has apprised our canteen proprietor about the notification and adequate measures have been taken to see that no junk food is prepared and sold in the college canteen.

TEACHERS

Bethune College is proud of its dedicated and erudite team of teachers. Research being one of the priorities of the Institution, the faculty is engaged in a process of continuous research activities by participating in National and International Seminars and Workshops and by conducting research projects. Further, the teachers also act as Resource persons in seminars, workshops, etc. conducted by other colleges/universities. They also regularly attend Orientation Programmes, Refresher Courses and Summer Schools conducted by the various Academic Staff Colleges as part of Faculty Improvement Programme.

Our teachers also travelled within the country and abroad to present papers as invited speakers. We may especially mention **Professor Sumanta Mukhopadhyay** of Bengali department who participated in a workshop on Translations of Poetry in Germany as a representative of Indian Poets in October, 2016.

Special mention may also be made of **Dr. Rina Rani Ray and Sri Samiran Ghosh** of the Zoology Department who were awarded "**Outstanding Paper Presenter**" for their presentations in the first Regional Science and Technology Congress, 2016, Presidency Division organised by DST, Government of West Bengal in November, 2016.

The teachers of this college, untiring in their dedication to their students, simultaneously upgrade their knowledge through research and publications. **Doctoral degrees** were received by Smt. Chirantani Das of History and Smt. Madhura Mandal of Statistics in 2016 and Smt. Samata Biswas of English department in 2017.

Some senior teachers of the college also act as supervisors for students pursuing their PhD. Two students were **awarded Ph.D (Sc) degree in Biotechnology under the sole guidance of Dr. Rina Rani Ray** from Maulana Abul Kalam University of Technology (formerly known as WBUT). One research scholar of Professor Pratap Chandra Ray submitted his PhD thesis this year.

Teachers continue to research, publish, arrange workshops, symposium, act as resource person in addition to their daily duties. Work is in progress on UGC-Sponsored Minor and Major Research projects in the different departments of the college.

Eight teachers were promoted to the next stage through **Career Advancement Scheme**. The promotion of **11** other teachers is in the final stage of its processing out of which **6 are for an advancement to the post of Associate Professor**.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Alumni Association and the college work in a synergetic manner for the enrichment and advancement of the students. The Mrinalini Emmerson Memorial Lecture organized by *Sammilani* was delivered by renowned danseuse Alakananda Ray on September 3, 2016 at the college premises

Alumni Meet: To orient the current students about the rich heritage of the college, members of the Alumni Association of Bethune College, *Sammilani*, met the First Year students on September 15, 2016. The current students were enriched by this happy interaction of the past with the present.

The alumni association organized '**Anandamela**', the annual fete on 10th September, 2016. Yesterday, that is, 17th of February 2017, the Alumni Association organized its **Annual Reunion**. The College maintains two **Endowment Funds** created by the financial donation from the families of two alumnae. Jyotsnamoyee Dey Endowment Fund supports one full time Professor, three part time Professors and two Fellows in Mathematics and one Fellow in Computer Science for full time teaching. Tarak Sudha Endowment Fund supports three Fellows in Computer Science department for full time teaching.

Running Projects and Schemes

The session 2016-17 has been a significant year for the college in terms of the recognition received by the institution in the form of DST-FIST and RUSA grants.

All equipments, computer and books proposed in DST-FIST program were purchased and the Utilization certificate along with Progress Report was submitted by the Project Implementation Group of DST-FIST. All the DST FIST sponsored departments, namely Botany, Zoology, Psychology, Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science and Multi-facility Centre for Science were enriched with the developed facilities created by DST-FIST. Both the faculty members and the students are benefited from these developed infrastructures, which are reflected in research progress as well as enhanced teaching efficacy. As per the suggestions of Re-Review Committee at a meeting held in New Delhi, new proposals were submitted giving special thrust to Department of Physics and Chemistry. Meanwhile, a number of research papers have been published with due acknowledgement to DST-FIST.

Bethune College was sanctioned Two Crores by **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)** out of which we have utilized Rs. Fifty lakhs of the 1st instalment. Upgradation of electrical Power capacity from 50 KV to 200 KV, upgradation of Library software and College website, purchase of instruments, books, journals and IT related instruments were done from the 1st instalment of Rs. Fifty lakhs. The second

instalment of Rs. Ninety five lakhs has been received by the College in September, 2016. This amount is to be spent for the construction of a Meditation cum Prayer Room and a lift well; installation of lift at Kadambini Bhavan, purchase of books, instruments and IT related equipments for departments and offices.

Internal administration of the college functions seamlessly with the help of committees, Office and Teachers. All the sub-Committees have worked round the year in a vibrantly spontaneous manner, participating in all activities of the college. Some new sub-committees like the Internal Audit Committee and Arrear Committee have been formed in this session to enable financial streamlining.

In keeping with the service rules, there have been routine transfers from the college and several teachers as well as non-teaching staff have joined the college on transfer. Dr. Sumita Ghosh retired from the Postgraduate Department of Botany after having served a long and fulfilling career. Smt. Saraswati Ghosh has joined our college in the post of Head Clerk. Eight other non-teaching staff joined our office in various capacities. We take this opportunity to express our appreciation of the service rendered by non teaching staff members Ramswarup Singh, Tapan Karmakar, Dilip Basak and Biren Bandopadhyay who retired during the last session.

This year we deeply mourn the untimely demise of our gatekeeper Sri Bijay Ram. We hope that his soul rests in peace. The college stands by his family in this time of distress.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Amongst various other activities of the college, some are worth mentioning here. **The Prize Distribution Ceremony of the 2014-15** session was held on January 30th 2016. Eminent theatre personality Sri Debsankar Haldar, theatre personality and Chairperson of our Governing Body Smt Saoli Mitra were the Guests of Honour. Professor Sugata Marjit, erstwhile Vice Chancellor, Calcutta University also graced the occasion with his eminent presence. The RUSA funded redesigned website was launched by Professor Marjit on this day.

Bhasha Dibas: The College organized a cultural programme to commemorate International Mother Language Day or Bhasha Dibas on 20th February, 2016.

Farewell to former teachers: A farewell programme was organized in April 2016 to honour the three eminent teachers who retired from service in the last session. Dr Gopa Gupta, Sri Probal Mukhopadhyay and Sri Satadip Sarkar were felicitated on this occasion.

Farewell of non teaching staff members Dudhnath Thakur, Swapan Kumar Dutta and Shyamapada Das was also organised in December 2016.

Bethune Day – Bethune Day was celebrated on 12th August, 2016. Swami Balabhadranandaji, Assistant Secretary, Ramkrishna Math and Mission, Belur Math delivered the Bethune Day lecture. Professor Manimala Das, former Principal and an alumna of this college was felicitated on this day. Students and teachers of the college paid homage to John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune's statue at the Bethune school premises and the plaque at the college premises. On this day a representative section of the students accompanied by teachers visited Bethune's tomb and paid their respect to the great visionary. The Third volume of the peer reviewed journal of the college, **HERITAGE**, that publishes scholarly articles not only of

in house teachers but of eminent external contributors, was formally inaugurated on Bethune Day by Swami Balabhadranandaji Maharaj.

150th Birth Anniversary of Sister Nivedita;

The teaching learning process is enriched by both teachers and students in the institution. Since Bethune College is no ordinary institute but the first Women's college in this part of the world it is only natural that its pupils should not only be made aware of their glorious legacy but be encouraged to carry it forward. In this context, we may mention that Bethune College commemorated the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sister Nivedita, through year-long celebrations, with financial support from the West-Bengal Government. The celebrations started with an inaugural programme and an exhibition on the 'Life and Times of Sister Nivedita' on 15th December, 2016. Swami Purnatmanandaji Maharaj, Secretary, Ramkrishna Mission Swami Vivekananda's Ancestral House and Cultural Centre, inaugurated the Exhibition and delivered the inaugural lecture in the august presence of Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, West Bengal State University, and Prof. Somnath Bhattacharya, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, Jadavpur University who delivered the key note address. The second session of the inaugural programme featured a musical performance titled 'Sister Nivedita: A Musical Journey from Ireland to India', presented by the Bethune College Choir, instituted on this occasion at the initiative of Dr. Mamata Ray, Principal, Bethune College.

An exhibition on the life and times of Sister Nivedita, organized by the college, was open for viewing for 7 days and was received with eager enthusiasm and appreciation by everyone.

The second phase of the year-long celebrations included a lecture series. Among the renowned speakers were Shri Jawhar Sircar, ex-CEO, Prasar Bharati, Swami Tattwasaranandaji Maharaj, Principal, Ramakrishna Mission Shikshana Mandira, Belur and Prof. Sabyasachi Basu Raychaudhuri, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Rabindra Bharati University.

The year-long celebrations also included extension programmes by the NSS Unit of the college and the Students' Activity Cell. The Bethune College Choir visited Nabaneer, Home for the Aged, accompanied by the Principal, a few teachers and NSS volunteers, and presented a musical programme which was greatly appreciated. The NSS Unit has also organised recitation, singing and drawing competitions to be held between 14th and 20th February 2017.

Commemorating the event, inter-college competitions were organized by the Student Activity Cell. The events included Essay writing (in Bengali, Hindi and English), Debate and Poster painting. A large number of colleges as well as school participated in the competitions. **All the events were judged by eminent scholars and the winners will be awarded today.** The College will publish a Sister Nivedita Commemorative Volume to mark this occasion.

We take this opportunity to pay a tribute, in her birth centenary year, to Prof. Nalini Das, the stalwart principal who served our college from 1968-1974 by dedicating to her the 2015-16 issue of Bethune College Magazine, *Adiganta* which awaits inauguration by our Chief Guest today.