

Annual Report of Bethune College 2020-21

We take great pleasure in presenting before this assembly a brief report of the activities and achievements of the College during the session 2020-21. As the First Women's College in Asia, this institution began its journey in 1879 with only one student Kadambini Ganguly (nee Basu), who subsequently went on to become the first woman physician in South Asia. As a flagship college of Calcutta University, Bethune College trains girl students to become responsible citizens, who can go beyond academic degrees to make lasting contributions to society, as worthy torch bearers of their glorious heritage.

Reaccredited in 2015 with 'A' grade, Bethune College strives to initiate new and innovative methods for quality enhancement, as per the recommendations of the NAAC Peer Team. We **secured 88th rank nationally in the College Category in the assessment by National Institutional Ranking Framework (MHRD) in the current session.**

Five of our departments namely Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology and Mathematics have been included under **DBT Star College Scheme, of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.** A webinar was organised as **part of the inaugural programme** on 18-09-2020.

From March 2020, the scare of the pandemic brought life to a stand-still. And, with the nation-wide lockdown putting a halt to normal life patterns, our college tried its best to ensure that the interests of students did not suffer. Teachers and non-teaching staff of the college quickly adapted themselves to the changed scenario and learnt technological skills for meeting academic and administrative needs

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, just before the nation-wide lockdown, the Department of Chemistry, led by Dr. Amita Kar, Dr. Goutam Bandyopadhyay, Dr. Sulakshana Karmakar and Dr. Bimal Dirghangi (of Dept of Chemistry,) demonstrated the technique of **sanitiser** preparation to the teaching support staff. They prepared sanitisers which were distributed among faculty members and teaching support staff. Masks were also distributed and posters prepared by students were circulated online as part of the Covid awareness programme.

Online classes during lockdown

To effectively combat the extraordinary situation of a pandemic and subsequent lockdown, the College adopted open-source LMS solutions like Google Classroom, to conduct online classes for students. Classes were also carried out through email or WhatsApp. A special routine for

online classes during the Lockdown was prepared. Live Streaming of video classes on *Zoom/Google meet/MTS/ Team-link/YouTube* etc. was used to reach out to students more effectively. Additional remedial classes were arranged for students with network problems. A new section "Knowledge Repository" was added to the College website where study materials were uploaded regularly for the students. Open educational resource links provided by UGC were also uploaded in the College website along with other Open Educational Resource links.

Mental well-being of students:

The college ensured that students did not suffer from mental health issues during the long period of lockdown and to that effect organised webinars on mental health. Teachers of all departments kept in regular touch with their students during the lockdown. Special mention must be made of the Department of Psychology for providing mental support to the students, as and when required, to cope with the online teaching-learning system and emotional stress related to personal, family and financial issues during the pandemic. Dr. Nilanjana Bagchi provided online counselling to students with follow up sessions during the Covid-19 and post Aamphan period.

An In-House Faculty Development Programme by Trained Teachers (8 days): An eight-day in-house faculty development program titled "Online Teaching and E-content Development" was organized by IQAC, Bethune College from August 31, 2020 to September 7, 2020. Seventeen participants (including the Principal, Bethune College and one faculty member from each department of the college) were initiated in the use of different platforms for online teaching-learning, following the four-quadrant model. The lectures were delivered by trained in-house faculty of the college namely, Dr. Sutapa Datta, Dr. Suchandra Chowdhury and Dr. Anindita Datta.

SEMINARS & WEBINARS

SEMINARS

Prior to the pandemic and lockdown, The Department of Economics, Bethune College had hosted the prestigious two-day **40th Annual National Conference of the Bangiya Arthoniti Parishad on 29-02-2020 and 01-03-2020**. The conference, "Analysing the Growth Trajectory of Indian Economy: Productivity, Efficiency, Employability & Equity" was funded by the Government of West Bengal, Higher Education Department, ICSSR, New Delhi, State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda. The conference president Prof. Dilip Madhukar Nachane, Ex-director, IGIDR and other eminent economists including Prof. Sugata Marjit, Alakananda Patel, Pranab Sen, Anup Sinha were present. Around 300 participants from different colleges, universities and institutions across the country attended the conference.

IQAC, Bethune College organised three seminars funded by the Department of Higher Education, Govt of West Bengal in January-February, 2020.

- 1. Commemoration of Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar's 200th Birth Anniversary on**

February 11, 2020.

2. Career Counselling and Soft Skill Development on February 19, 2020.

3. Environment: Issues for Concern on February 24, 2020.

WEBINARS

The IQAC, Bethune College organized webinars in collaboration with all the sixteen departments and different committees which were attended by participants from the state and outside and which led to healthy exchange of ideas.

- **Thoughts and Reflections in the Time of Covid-19 Pandemic: Science, Economy, Polity and Culture (3 day webinar)**

1. 12/6/2020: SARS COV-2 Virus and Health Issues
2. 19/6/2020: Covid-19: Economy, Polity and Social Media
3. 26/6/2020: Culture and Combat

- Interactive Session on ‘Arts and Science of YOga for better health and happiness’ , NSS Unit held on 6/7/2020
- Webinar on ‘Anatomy is Destiny’ organised by Women’s Studies Centre on 12/7/2020
- Promotion of College Teachers in the light of UGC Guidelines 2016 & 2018 organised by CAS Committee on 8/8/2020
- International Webinar on New Mode of Online Teaching and Learning: Prospects and Limitations in the light of Human Responses on 18/8/2020
- NAAC Committee organised a webinar ‘Beat Stress and Boost Happiness’ on 21/8/2020
- Online Workshop on Virtual Classroom Teaching organised by Department of Mathematics in collaboration with Classle on 16.06.2020 & 18.06.2020
- National Workshop on Orientation on MOOCS and e-content development on 29/8/2020.
- Backward Class Cell organised a webinar ‘An Overview of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989’ on 21/9/2020

The IQAC has also established a **Human Rights Cell** and an **Intellectual Property Rights Cell** in our College. A year-long programme/ activity schedule has been drawn up by both the cells.

Tuesday lecture series: It was proposed by Prof. Krishna Roy, Principal, Bethune College, that academic activity beyond classroom teaching be encouraged for intellectual stimulation of teachers and pedagogic interaction amongst themselves as a part of knowledge sharing approach in Higher Education. This resulted in the Tuesday Lecture series which further enriched the teaching community. The series that was inaugurated by Principal, Prof (Dr) Krishna Roy in the form of an engaging discussion on Alzheimer's disease on December 3, 2019 has been carried forward with stimulating discussions on a variety of subjects by Dr Abhijit Bhattacharya, Dr Debalina Banerjee, Professor Pratap Ch Ray, Dr Kanya Sengupta, Dr Maitri Ghosh, Dr Suchandra Chowdhury, Dr Nilanjana Bagchi, Dr Anusua Datta and Smt Sanjukta Roy. During the period of lockdown, all lectures were uploaded on the college YouTube channel.

Webinars organised by departments in collaboration with IQAC

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

- **Dept of Zoology:** Biodiversity and Protection of Environment in Post Covid Era, Overview of Covid 19, Vaccine Development on 5/6/2020
- **Dept of English:** "Literature Through Music : Rendition of a section of *Abhijnanashakuntalam & Kubla Khan* on Violin, on 4.7.2020.
- **Dept of Computer Science:** Role of Data Science in studying Covid-19 pandemic on 13/7/2020
- **Dept of Psychology:** Challenges and Opportunities in Defense Research: Role of Psychological Science" on 24/7/2020
- Depts of Physics and Chemistry: "**A tribute to Rosalind Elsie Franklin: Pioneer in DNA Structure Determination**" on 27/7/2020
- The department of **Physics** further organised a webinar under the DBT Star College Scheme. The topic was "**Numerical Analysis using Python Programming**"

- **Dept of Statistics:** Statistics: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" on 29/7/2020
- **Dept of History:** Concerns of Historians and journalists on Pandemic: Past and Present on 1/8/2020
- **Dept of Chemistry:**
 1. National webinar on "**Today's UG Chemistry and future prospect**" on 14/8/2020.
 2. Another webinar on the topic "**Chemistry and future**" was organised where ex-students of the department addressed the students regarding future career options.

3. **One-Day Webinar on "Computer Applications of Chemistry at the Undergraduate Level & Food Safety and Control"**organised by the Department of Chemistry in collaboration with Royal Society of Chemistry (Eastern India Section) on 19.01.2021

- **Dept of Political Science:** India in a post pandemic global order on 20/8/2020
- **BOTANY:**
 1. International Webinar on "**Human Ailment: Basic Research and Clinical Implications**" on 22/8/2020.
 2. The Botany department also conducted a Virtual Workshop on Herbarium Techniques in collaboration with Central National Herbarium & ENVIS Resource Partner on Biodiversity, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah. under **DBT Star College Scheme.**
 3. **The 3rd Sanghamitra Sanyal Memorial Lecture** on "On Correct Scientific Name: A Nobel Job in Taxonomic Research " was delivered online by Dr. Debabrata Maity, Assistant Professor, Taxonomy and Biosystematics, Department of Botany, University of Calcutta.
 4. Webinar on "**Coastal areas of West Bengal: Botany and Beyond**"
- **Depts of Sanskrit and Hindi:** National Webinar on Inter-Literary Dialogues on 24/8/2020
- **Dept of Philosophy:** Coping with the Pandemic: A Psycho-Philosophical Standpoint on 27/8/2020
- **Dept of Bengali:** International webinar "Bangladesher kobita O Kathasahitya" on 14/9/2020

Administrative work of the college remained undisturbed throughout this period owing to the Principal's initiatives.

- In keeping with the norms advocated by the University of Calcutta & Government of West Bengal, the college organised online verification of forms. The college maintains reservation of seats according to Government norms. Application and admission fees were collected online.
- Examinations of UG and PG, Annual & CBCS students were conducted online, including paper setting, evaluation and marks uploading.
- Arrears of 24 teachers were processed by the Arrear and Pay Fixation Committee in

September 2020.

- CAS files of 10 teachers were processed in September 2020 by the CAS Committee and seven teachers have already received their orders.
- CAS files of 07 teachers were processed in February 2021.
- At the administrative level, **the non-teaching staff members** offered unstinting support to meet the challenges of a difficult year. The Students' Section provided wholehearted support in the digital processing of registration, examination and review related activities along with the various **sub-committees and teachers**. It was possible for the **Income Tax, Pay Fixation and Arrear sub committees as well as other academic committees to process all administrative work** owing to the full support and cooperation of the Office.

Infrastructural Support/Grants:

The latest addition to this heritage institution is the newly constructed Archive building. An Archive room is being set up for the preservation and display of rare documents and artefacts of the college. The same building also houses a room dedicated to Bethune College Sammilani.

Multi Facility Centres for Arts and Science have been set up to facilitate higher studies and research activities among students. The **Multi-facility 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. Research work related to Nano Biotechnology conducted here has been recognized through publication and funding.

From 2016 onwards, the college has received a total financial assistance of Rs. 1,95,83,334/- from **RUSA**. The college utilized the full amount of the first instalment of **RUSA grant** for creation of new facilities, renovation and upgradation, and procurement of new equipments/facilities. From the second instalment, the state of the art Seminar Room has been completed. The third phase of allotment of Rs. 50 lacs is being used for creation of new facilities in the form of a single storeyed building with three storeyed foundation for extension of Chandramukhi Bhawan of which 50% of the work has been completed. (Rs. 4 lacs to be used)

STUDENT RESULTS and ACHIEVEMENTS:

The most important stakeholders are our students who have once again proved themselves worthy inheritors of the rich heritage of this college. Our student strength this session combining the undergraduate and postgraduate streams is close to 1500.

Extraordinary Achievements of students

Swarnali Dey who graduated with Botany Honours from this College in 2017 topped the All-India CSIR-UGC NET Examination 2020-2021.

Special mention must be made of Abhishikta Dhar, former student of Department of English (PG 2017) whose short film *Everyday Salad* was awarded **The Film with the Best Concept** at the Kolkata International Micro and Short Film Festival on 20/2/2021.

UG Results: During the last session, our students have performed very well in the University Examinations. The results of the undergraduate Arts departments of the college offering honours courses during the session 2020-21 was consistently good with as many as **82 students obtaining first class in B.A. Part III Honours examination. In the undergraduate science departments, 209 students were placed in the first class** in the B.Sc. Part III Honours examination.

It is a matter of great joy for us that 3 students from the departments of Chemistry (02) and Statistics (01) have secured the prestigious **JBNSTS scholarship Bigyani Kanya Medhabritti** in 2020. 12 students of Chemistry and 3 students of Statistics are INSPIRE fellows.

PG Results and Student Progression:

Like our UG students, postgraduate students have also excelled in their academic performance with as many as 65 (Botany- 8 Psychology 10 Bengali 14, English 6, Maths 7, Zoo 20) **securing first class marks** in the Final Semester. We are proud to mention here that many of

our students have successfully cleared competitive examinations like **NET, JAM, JEST, GATE, CSIR NET, JRF IIT-ISM Entrance test** and a good number of them are pursuing PhD at prestigious institutes in India and abroad. Many of them have joined prestigious educational institutions like BARC, IITs and corporate offices in various capacities. Many of our students have joined West Bengal Education Service as Assistant Professor.

Academic Activities of Students:

The Institution takes several steps to nurture critical thought, creativity and scientific approach among the students. The students of all departments are encouraged to participate in various academic activities to facilitate learning beyond textbooks.

About 198 undergraduate students participated in instantaneous paragraph writing on **Pundit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar as a part of year long celebration marking his Bicentennial birth anniversary on 26-11-2019.**

- A team of 5 PG Sem IV students of Botany (Chandreyee Dey, Ankita Chowdhury, Debarati Ghosh, Dipanwita Khamaru, Najnin Khatun) won **the best poster presentation award** for poster entitled Characterization of 4 Viral outbreaks that originated from animals at 'State level seminar' on “Environmental awareness: Vector borne diseases and pollution hazards “ conducted at Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Govt. College.
- Priyanka Das & Manisha Mal of PG Sem IV, Botany **presented a poster** entitled “ Cancer, a genetic and yet non-inherited monoclonal uncontrolled proliferation- a threat to middle aged-woman” at National Seminar on “How to Checkmate Cancer-the Emperor of Maladies organised by Department of Zoology, Ramkrishna Mission Vidyamandira.
- Tiasa Paral, Srijukta Dhar and Sinjini Kar of Chemistry were placed in the **4th position at the National Chemquiz 2020** organised by Presidency University, Kolkata.
- 32 students of the third and fifth semesters from the Sanskrit department successfully **completed a spoken Sanskrit course** from Sanskritbharati, JNU. 9 students took part in a an online Workshop on “ Elements of Sanskrit Poetics in the Abhijñāna Śākuntalam” organized by the department of Sanskrit , Michael Madhusudan Memorial College.
- Sinjini Kar of Chemistry completed an online course on "Drug Development" authorized by University of California San Diego in June 2020.
- A number of students of the Psychology department received Letters of recommendation on the completion of internship as a mentor at One Life Infinite Happiness, a Mental

health initiative under Kalam foundation. Many others have successfully completed internships with Lions Club International for UTSAV 2020.

- Soumashree Mukherjee, UG Semester II, Dept of English participated in the 42nd Conference of Southwest Popular/American Culture Association. Her paper "Fragmenting the Dystopia in The Umbrella Academy" and Creative writing paper "Three poems: Letter to Alfred, Blind and Tippy Toe" were selected for presentation in the conference. Her paper titled "The Reality of Unfelt Feelings: Exploring the Role of Postmemory in Reception" has been selected for presentation at the "Postmemory and the Contemporary World" 2nd International Interdisciplinary Conference.
- Pratyasha Sen of UG Sem II, English Dept, presented a paper on Saadat Hasan Manto's *Khol Do* at the Students' Webinar organized by Sister Nivedita University on July 15, 2020.
- **Tishya Ghosh**, a student of History Dept (Semester V July-Dec 2020) was highly praised for presenting a paper titled 'Vicious Vindictive Substances of Venom: An Exploration through bygone Compositions' on 21st September 2020, at the 7th International Congress of the Society of South Asian Archaeology (SOSAA), Pune, India, organized by History and Archaeology, University of Sri Jayewardene pure, Sri Lanka in collaboration with Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO
- **Tiyasha Bose, Ayantika Mishra and Joyashree Adhikari** of the History Dept participated in 'Manuscripts' of the Course 'Sources of Heritage' conducted by Bhandarkar Oriental Institute in collaboration with Heritage India Commission Pvt. Ltd and NYANSA from 10-15th August, 2020
- **Oishee Ghosh** of History Dept (3rd semester in July-Dec 2020) successfully participated as a delegate in International MUN Internship, (International Model United Nations 5 weeks work from home internship), October, 2020
- **Yukta Acharya** of Pol Sc Dept was certified as an active participant, speaker and organizer at the Academic Workshop & Seminar on Fundamental & Theoretical Approaches to International Relations & International Law organized by Tilottoma Foundation & City College, Kolkata on 8th February, 2020 and at The Big Game of the 21st Century: National Conference on Nuclear Proliferation in Asia, organized by the Tilottoma Foundation on 12th July, 2019

Co Curricular Activities of Students:

The college duly encourages, informs, motivates and helps students to participate in various events and competitions outside college and contribute to social causes.

Students of various departments have to their credit first prizes in inter-college competitions in Music, Creative Writing, Drama, Debate, Dance, Quiz, Educational Model, Art Competition, Recitation, Rabindrasangeet, Extempore Acting, Self-Composed Poetry and Reflexons Code Combat.

- Kirtika Suroliya of Hindi department participated in Hindi Divas Samaroh 2019 Organised by Presidency University and won the **first prize in Kaavya Antakshari, second prize in both Creative Writing and Quiz**. She has published articles and paintings in various magazines and websites. Besides she scored 100% in Hindi Sahitya Gyan Online Competition organised by Samvet Dhvani Sansthan, Rajasthan and also got good grades in various online quiz Programmes on Hindi Grammar and Literature.
- Tirtha Nath of Chemistry has **Secured 1st Position in State Level Essay Competition** for UG Students organised by Department of Economics and IQAC , K.K. Das College, Kolkata.
- Priti Prasad and Jyoti Jha, students of Hindi department achieved the **first and the third ranks** respectively in the **All India Essay Writing Event 2019** UNIC, SRC Mission, and the Heartfulness Education Trust State level. Shubha Swapna Mukhopadhyay, also from Hindi department participated in the National **Essay Writing Competition** organized by Sarojini Naidu College for Women and secured the **2nd position**.
- Ashmita Saha, UG III, Department of English was selected as Programme Announcer, All India Radio.
- Sayantani Mandal, UG Sem II, Dept of English, won **second** prize in Recitation at West Bengal Inter college Competition organized by Charuchandra college.
- Bidisha Dutta of UG Sem II, English Dept, won the **second** prize in an inter-college Debate competition on Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar organised by Vidyasagar College for Women.
- Atreyee Bose and Bidisha Acharyya, UG Sem I, Dept of English, won **1st and 3rd** Prizes respectively in the event Melomania, organised by Artriq Foundation on 24/1/2021.
- Atreyee Bose also won **2nd** Prize in the event Spread (Samagam) organised by the Dept of Economics, Heramba Chandra College on 30/1/2021.
- Minakshi Roy of Botany has secured **3rd position in Drawing & painting** section on “Gender Dimensions of COVID-19 organized by All India Women Conference, East Calcutta Constituency.

- Promita Chatterjee of Psychology was featured as a select writer organised by "What the Word".
- Pritha Das, a PG student of the Bengali department won the 2nd. prize in “Loko Nritya(Ekak)”, at District Level Cultural Competition, West Bengal State Youth Festival, February, 2020, organized by the Department of Youth Welfare & Sports, Government of West Bengal.
- Shalmoli Ghosh of Political Science Dept won 1st position in Duet Dance at Dhun, 2020 organized by Bidhannagar Government College.
- Anoushka Banerjee of Political Sc Department won 2nd Position in Creative Writing (in English) at Srijan organized by Shri Shikshayatan College and 3rd Position in Creative Writing (in English), organised by Lady Brabourne College, 2019.
- Prakriti Ghosh Hajra of Psychology secured second position in Online Writing Competition for Poetry conducted by Writing Fest Season. Avipsha Chakraborty, a student of the same department secured 3rd position in English content writing in online 'Content writing contest' organised by League of Tales. Rajeshwari Mandal of Psychology secured Second Position in the Art and Act Competition organised by Kolkatar Golpokotha.
- Purva Chakraborty of Psychology secured third position in poetry competition on World Poetry Day on 21st March 2020, organized by Rotaract Club Of Greater Tezpur. She was also awarded the Best Rotaractor Award in Rotaract Club Of Calcutta.
- Shinjini Kar of Chemistry was awarded a prize for **Best Choice Position at an Art Competition** organised by Daily Clicks.
- Srijukta Dhar of Chemistry secured the **3rd Position in E-PILOGUE in E-LLUSION 2020** and also published articles on the topics : "Beirut Explosions" and "The 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry" on the platform “Inquisitive”.
- Sheuli Das of Sanskrit secured **first position in the Independence Day Special National Level Quiz** compétition organised by LEGUM LITERATES.
- Prachet Palit of Botany secured the **first position in the Quarantine Chef cooking contest** organised by Kolkata Tales.


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.

NSS activities: Organised under the guidance of Dr. Moumita Datta From December 2019, drive was taken to make the College campus a Plastic free Zone by student-volunteers who distributed pamphlets to create awareness among all on the day of Fest, Aalap 2019. A Special Camp was held in March, 2020, the theme of which was Women Empowerment. Seminars were organized and renowned speakers came to deliver lectures. NSS Unit along with a NGO extended support to the poor people of Sundarban by distributing food items during the lockdown period.

STUDENT SUPPORT

The college actively promotes the outstanding schemes of Kanyashree and Swami Vivekananda Merit cum Means Scholarship designed by the Honourable Chief Minister of West Bengal and funded by the Government of West Bengal.

The Kanyashree Committee successfully processed the applications of 180 applicants (16 K1 applications and 164 K2 applications) of the previous portal: 2018-19. The Physical Verification of Documents of these candidates was carried out in a phased manner in the College campus by agents appointed by the ICDS, Kolkata. Applications were made for 172 candidates (5 K1 applications and 166 K2 applicants) during 2019-2020 portal. However, due to the exceptional circumstances created by the Covid pandemic, Physical Verification of Documents of the said candidates have not taken place.

The Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of  West Bengal awarded the **Second Position to Bethune College, in the Kolkata district** for its performance during 2019-20.

185 applications for **Swami Vivekananda Merit cum Means Scholarship** were forwarded which include 26 K3 scholarships for PG students. Besides applications for the Indira Gandhi Scholarship for the Single Girl Child, Aikyashree, Minority Scholarships (SC/ST/OBC/Muslim) and National Scholarship were also processed.

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 the Student

Aid Fund extended financial support to the **students affected by Amphaan**. Besides, 21 students from the outgoing batch and 41 students from the first semester have benefitted from the Students' Aid Fund.

The College **Library** that has a rich collection of about 1,10,500 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. 2,50,000- and Rs. 14,00,000/- was spent for purchasing equipments for library automation (RFID date). The Library also provides access to various scholarly journals through a subscription to Inflibnet.

Ethics and Value Education: With a view to promote holistic development of our students and to create awareness and commitment to moral values, the course on Ethics and Value Education has been reconstituted as a 30-hour course. A full-fledged syllabus, including contributions from all departments has been framed. Prof. Krishna Roy, Principal, Bethune College delivered the inaugural lecture of the new session titled “Introduction to Values and Ethics: An Indian Perspective” on 10th February, 2021. The second lecture was delivered on 25/2/2021 by Dr Gopa Gupta, Former Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Bethune College.

WEBEL: Since 2006-07 **WBEIDC –WIL** division in collaboration with Bethune College offers a 120 hours on-campus **DIPLOMA** course in Computer Application, at a very affordable rate. It is held during College hours. Assessment of students is done based on a gradation system. Keeping the needs of students during lockdown, the course was shifted to online mode in the last session.

Excursions and Academic Tours: The teaching learning experience in the college is not confined to the four walls of the classroom. Before the pandemic locked us all inside our homes, few excursions and field trips were organised by departments. The students of Economics participated in a field project on “Studying the Economic profile of a popular tourist Destination in West Bengal – Raichak on Ganges”. Historical sites of Guptipara and Ambika Kalna were visited by Semester II and IV students of History Dept on 7th March 2020.

To acquaint the students with various job prospects, the **Career Counselling Cell** of the college is constantly engaged in guiding the students towards a fruitful career and is also involved in off and on-campus recruitment of the students. In the academic session 2020-21,

Cultural Activities: Despite the pandemic various online and offline cultural activities, with adequate safety measures, were conducted throughout the year with enthusiastic participation from teachers and students.

Celebration of Independence Day: Independence Day was celebrated in the college and the National Flag was hoisted by the Principal in presence of the teachers and non-teaching staff of the College. A video titled 'Abhay Yatra' was made by the Cultural Club and uploaded on the College website. Students also participated in an online essay and poster/poem competition organised by the Literary Club.

Fest – The Annual Fest AALAP 2020 was inaugurated in the college premises on 22nd December, 2020 by the Principal Prof (Dr.) Krishna Roy. It was later held on the virtual platform and was streamed live on the college YouTube channel. Students from different departments participated enthusiastically making it a grand success.

ANNUAL PRIZE DAY 2020

The Prize Distribution Ceremony of the 2019-20 session was held on 17th February, 2020. Prof. **Sonali Chakravarti Banerjee**, Vice Chancellor, University of Calcutta graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Smt. Urmimala Basu, noted elocutionist and theatre personality and Rupa Majumdar, Director, Deb Sahitya Kutir were also present on this occasion. Former Principals and alumnae of the college were also present on this occasion. "*Bahe Nirantara*", a book commemorating 50 years of Physics Honours teaching in Bethune College was formally released. *Dr. Neena Gupta, illustrious alumna of Mathematics department and winner of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award 2019, was felicitated with the Kadambini Ganguly Memorial Award.* The prize was handed over to her by Sri Rajib Ganguly and Smt. Dipannita

Ganguly, members of Kadambini Ganguly's family. The event ended with a cultural programme on Unity in Diversity presented by the students.

Bhasha Dibas: The departments of Bengali and Hindi organized online programmes to commemorate International Mother Language Day.

The pandemic of Covid-19 notwithstanding, our students enthusiastically organized two separate programmes to commemorate the birth anniversaries of **Rabindranath Tagore** and **Kaji Nazrul Islam** - '*Dukkho Raater Bondhu*' and '*Anjali Laho Mor*', available for viewing on the college YouTube channel.

Celebration of **World Environment Day:** An online Essay and e-poster competition was organised on the occasion of World Environment Day, 5th June, 2020. in which students participated with great enthusiasm.

Celebration of **Bethune Day and Afforestation:** Keeping all safety protocols intact, Bethune Day was observed on August 12, 2020, to commemorate the death anniversary of John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune. Principal Prof. (Dr.) Krishna Roy, TCS, Dr. Amita Kar, Dr.Sudeshna Mitra and Smt. Mandira Mitra visited his tomb, lighted candles, placed a wreath and paid homage to him. 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. Prof. Krishna Roy spoke about the life of J. E. Drinkwater Bethune. Afforestation program was observed by planting 12 trees within the campus, amidst songs sung by Dr. Kanya Sengupta and Dr. Sritama Mukherjee. Students also observed afforestation programme from their respective homes.

Mini Book Fair:

A mini Book fair was organised by Bethune College on 18.2.'21 and 19.2.'21 on the initiative of the Principal. Seven booksellers joined in the venture. A stall with the publications of Bethune College was also set up. The NSS unit set up a 'take home' stall - 'humming books'. The fair recorded about 100 footfalls and proved to be a great success.

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 the Faculty Improvement Programme.

- Our teachers also travelled within the country and abroad to present papers as invited speakers. Among many others who presented papers in **international webinars, conferences and seminars**, noteworthy are Dr. Satarupa Bandopadhyay, Dr. Supriti Paul, Dr. Nilanjana Bagchi, Dr. Mohua Chatterjee, Smt. Tanwi Mukhopadhyay, Dr. Anindita Datta, Dr. Sharmistha Niyogi, Dr. Sritama Mukherjee... and. They also participated in various workshops to equip themselves with the latest techniques of online teaching.
- Dr. Shanta Bandopadhyay (Rajguru), Dr. Suranjana Dasgupta, Dr. Satarupa Bandopadhyay, Dr. Nilanjana Bagchi, Dr. Shyamali Sen, Dr. Mohua Chatterjee, Smt. Suchimita Maitra, Smt. Sumita Mukhopadhyay, Dr. Chhandam Chakraborty, Dr. Saptarshi Mondal, Dr. Debatri Ghosh, Dr. Debadeepa Banerjee, Smt Sanjukta Roy, Smt. Debanjana Basu were invited as **resource persons** in various conferences and seminars.
- The teachers of this college, untiring in their dedication to their students, simultaneously upgrade their knowledge through research and publications. Several teachers are enrolled as PhD scholars in various universities. **Doctoral degrees** were received by Dr. Chhandam Chakraborty of Bengali department and Dr Debaprasad Pal of Mathematics Department.
- Dr. Anindita Datta was awarded the Smita Ghosh Smriti Puroskar by Bethune College Sammilani.
- Among ongoing research projects, noteworthy are a project titled “Study of Some

Transition Metal Complexes with New Pincer Ligands : Synthesis Characterization and Reactivity” funded by West Bengal Department of Higher Education Science & Technology and Biotechnology (Sci &Tech) by Dr. Paramita Majumdar of Chemistry Department and another project in the field of Economics on “Analysis of Efficiency and Total Factor Productivity Growth of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry with Special Reference to West Bengal” funded By IMPRESS-ICSSR by Dr. Dipyaman Pal.

- Our teachers are also actively **involved in the examinations conducted by the University of Calcutta**. They act as Head Examiners, Examiners, Paper Setters and Scrutineers of the examinations all round the year successfully completing their designated duties. This year our teachers were also involved in the online paper setting, evaluation and uploading of marks of Internal, Tutorial and Final examinations of Calcutta University as per instructions received from the University.
- Teachers from various departments published research articles in celebrated national and international journals and books. Dr. Dipyaman Pal, Dr. Sourav Ganguly, Dr Satarupa Bandopadhyay, Dr. Srirupa Banerjee, Dr. Sujan Chandra, Smt Sanjukta Roy have international publications during this session.
- The second edition of a collection of poems *Neer ki Nadi* authored by Dr. Ranjana Sharma of Hindi Department was brought out by Anand Prakashan. During this session Dr. Sharma wrote a book titled *Bangla Lokgeetonka Samajshastra* which was published by Anand Prakashan. Another book of poems composed by her titled *Pade Kartehain Intazar* was released yesterday. **Smt. Tanwi Mukhopadhyay** wrote a collection of poems titled *Adhuna Sharbaree* which was published by Sitadel, Kolkata. Dr Anindita Dutta co-edited a volume titled *Atmahatyar Kathakata* published by Ebong Mushayera in February 2021.

The Alumni Association and the college work in a synergetic manner for the enrichment and advancement of the students. This year our **Alumni Association, Bethune College Sammilani** completed 100 years of its journey. This was celebrated with a grand online event which was streamed live on youtube. All teachers and students along with former teachers and ex-Bethunites participated in this online programme.

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.

In keeping with the service rules, there have been new appointments and several teachers as well as non-teaching staff have joined the college on transfer.

College Publications:

- "**Ishwar Parabare**", a collection of essays by eminent scholars, on Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, edited by Prof. (Dr.) Krishna Roy (Chief Editor) and Sri Sumanta Mukhopadhyay (Executive Editor), was inaugurated by Dr. Partho Chattopadhyay, Hon'ble Minister In Charge, Higher Education Department on 26th September 2020.

- **Prohor Punthi** (A collection of creative writing, chronologically during Lock Down Period), edited by Dr. Maitri Ghosh and Sumanta Mukhopadhyay, was released on 2nd November, in presence of college alumni.
 - **Voices Beyond Silence: Issues and Insights**, an anthology of scholarly & interdisciplinary essays related to women's issues was published jointly by the Women's Studies Centre and Women's Studies Department of the college on 22.12.2020
 - **Adiganta**: The college magazine dedicated to Pandit Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar was formally released on 15/12/2020
 - Seminar proceedings of One Day State Level Seminar on "**Career Counselling and Soft Skill Development**", organized by **Bethune College** held on February 19th, 2020 was formally released on 22/12/2020. The Seminar proceedings of One Day State Level Seminar on "**Environment : Issues for Concern**", organized by **Bethune College**, held on February 24th, 2020 was also released on the same day.
 - **Heritage**, Volume VI, the interdisciplinary peer reviewed academic journal of the college was formally released on 15/12/2020.
 - The First **Newsletter** of Bethune College documenting all academic and administrative activities of the session was published in December 2020.
 - **A report of Webinars** held during the period of lockdown was compiled and published by the college in December 2020.

We deeply mourn the demise of our colleagues Prof. Tandra Gangopadhyay (Philosophy), Prof

Nandini Raha (Physics), Dr Kokila Bhadra (English) and Dr Uttara Chakraborty (History)

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 stakeholders, Bethune College has played a major role in contributing to the cause of women's education in the country. We look forward to upholding the rich legacy of this heritage institution.