

Annual Report of the College 2021- 2022

28.02.2021-04.03.2022

We take great pleasure in presenting before this assembly a brief report of the activities and achievements of the College during the session 2021-22. 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 **77th rank nationally in the College Category in the assessment by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (MHRD)** in the current session. It is the only Government College from West Bengal to feature among the first 100 colleges in the country.

Other rankings: Bethune College has ranked **16th according to Education World Rankings 2021-22 in the Autonomous College Category**. According to a survey conducted by **India Today**, Bethune College has secured **5th rank in the Eastern region**. **The college has secured 74th rank in Arts and 92nd rank in Science category.**

On the occasion of the **100th Anniversary of our Alumni Association**, *Bethune College Sammilani*, the newly constructed **Archive Building** funded by RUSA was inaugurated by Professor Pushpa Misra, Former Principal and GB Member of Bethune College on 3rd of September, 2021. **Busts of Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar and Sister Nivedita** were unveiled as part of the Centenary Celebrations on the same day. The busts were donated by Snehashish Sur, in memory of his late mother Smt. Roma Sur, a former professor of Chemistry at the college and former Secretary of the Alumni Association.

The **Kolkata General Post Office** honoured the Alumni Association of the college with the release of a special cover containing the logo of the Alumni Association on 22nd November, 2021. The cover was inaugurated by Shri Neeraj Kumar, the Postmaster General of the GPO in the historic Rotunda Hall in the presence of the Principal of the college and members of the Alumni Association.

It is a matter of great honour for the college that **Prof(Dr) Krishna Roy, our Principal** has been awarded the **Outstanding Teacher Award 2021-22** by Presidency University.

In a significant development in the last session, the **newly constituted Governing Body of the College** has come into effect from December 2021. Recently the college has also been registered with a **PAN number**.

COVID:

As Covid-19 entered the second and later third waves, the world saw unprecedented misery and sadness. Despite the raging pandemic, Bethune College continued with online teaching-learning, examination and evaluation. Zoom/Google Meet/Team link platforms were used for online classes. Video and audio study materials were provided to the students via different platforms. Online tutorial and remedial classes were regularly held and study materials were uploaded in Google classrooms. GCR was used for examinations and evaluations. E-contents were made available on the College website.

The college stood up to the need of the hour by starting the **Bethune College Covid Squad during the Second Wave of Covid-19**, which was an initiative of Students' Activity Cell with roughly twelve students from UG and PG sections, on 28 April, 2021, with a purpose of providing help to the families of the students and staff of our college. However, as the group expanded, it started to extend help to people from all over the state. The group had around 60 student volunteers and was able to help more than 150 people till date with all kinds of help, from oxygen cylinders and hospital beds to food facilities and RTPCR tests and a lot more.

Despite the pandemic, the college made every possible effort for the benefit of students. Apart from regular classes, Examinations of UG and PG, Annual & CBCS students were conducted online, including paper setting, evaluation and marks uploading. Several cultural events like Annual Prize Day and Fest were conducted online. Government welfare schemes for the students like Kanyashree, Swami Vivekananda Merit Cum Means and Student Credit Card were processed despite the pandemic.

Sanitization of the college was done on a number of occasions and it is still an ongoing process. It was accomplished on 05.05.2021 by the college authorities. All departments and buildings including the Science and Arts Libraries were sanitized. Later with the Government

notification regarding resuming of on-campus classes with effect from 16th November 2021 and 3rd February, 2022, the college was sanitized thoroughly.

Water purifier machines and Sanitizer machines have been installed at strategic points in the college premises for the benefit of students and staff.

A Covid vaccination drive was undertaken for students on 5th of October 2021 in collaboration with Calcutta Medical College.

Classes in blended mode began initially from 16.11.2021. From the 3rd of February, all academic activities including classes have shifted to offline mode as per Govt notification.

INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

The basement of the College Administrative Building was renovated and assigned as the storage room. All the departments have been assigned designated places for their use. The **College gymnasium** equipped with the latest fitness equipment was inaugurated in March 2021 for the students.

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 1400.

Our illustrious alumna **Dr Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay** was awarded with the prestigious Padma Shri in Science and Engineering. A former student of Bethune College, she is currently the Director of ISI, Kolkata. **Dr Neena Gupta**, an ex-student of the Department of Mathematics won the Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians. Previously honoured with the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award, Dr Gupta is a Faculty of Mathematics in ISI, Kolkata.

UG & PG RESULTS

Our students have done consistently well in all university examinations. In the last session, 236 (Eco & Psychology included) students secured CGPA over 6 in Humanities & Social

Sciences and 177 students secured CGPA over 7 in Science subjects. Special mention must be made of 2 (two) students from Philosophy, one each from Psychology and Sanskrit and 5 (five) students from Economics who secured CGPA over 8. There were 6 students in Science securing CGPA above 9 (1 from Chemistry and 5 from Computer Science).

Prestigious scholarships: It is a matter of great joy for us that **33 students** in our Science departments are **INSPIRE scholars** [8(Chemistry)+ 14(Physics) +5(Statistics)+ 4(Mathematics)+2(Zoology)]. Besides, **4 students** from the Physics department have secured the prestigious **JBNSTS scholarship Bigyani Kanya Medhabritti in 2021.**

PG Results & Student Progression:

PG results were equally good with as many as 77 students securing CGPA over 6 in their 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 and corporate offices in various capacities. Many of our students have joined West Bengal Education Service as Assistant Professor.

Extraordinary Achievements of students:-

Chirayata Purna Chakraborty, student of the outgoing batch of English department has won **The Tagore Award for Translated fiction** from Bengali 2021. Her translation of Yashodhara Ray Chaudhuri's short fiction 'The Man and the Tree' won the Second Prize.

Soumasree Mukherjee, UG student of the English department won the **Heldrich Dvorak Travel Fellowship Award** for her paper presented at the 42nd International Dept. of English Conference of Southwest Popular/American Cultural Association. Soumasree's paper has also been accepted for presentation in the American Comparative Literature Association conference 2022 .

Roshni Mukherjee, Dept. of History was awarded a prize for the **Best Paper in the Online National Conference** organised by the Indian Council for Historical Research.

Deepshikha Kedia, Department of Political Science completed the Jurni Ambassador Program by The Jurni, London, United Kingdom.

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.

- **Soumashree Mukherjee**, a student of the department of English presented a paper at the 2nd International Interdisciplinary Conference on Post memory and the Contemporary World organized by Inmind Support, Gdansk, Poland. She, along with another PG student, **Oindrila Dey** presented a paper in an Interdisciplinary workshop by Centre for Memory Studies, IIT Madras.
- **Pratyasha Sen**, UG student of the English department presented a paper at the Two-day National Conference organized by the IIT Roorkee in association with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Co-curricular Achievements by students

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

- **Tiyasha Bose**, Dept. of History won the **Best Photographer of the year Award** in the Penholics Annual Awards.
- **Ayantika Mishra**, Dept. of History was judged the **Best Public Relations Representative** in the Penholics Annual Awards.
- **Madhusree Das**, Dept. of English won the first position in the International Creative Writing Competition organised by Heramba Chandra College.
- **Shinjini Kar**, Department of Chemistry was ranked among the top 4% (out of 1,23,418 entries) and got selected to the final round under Mobile Photography Nominations in 6th International Photography Contest 35AWARDS.

- **Manami Nandy**, a student of the Sanskrit department won the 2nd prize in Dance in the Talent Search examination, at Suro Bharati Sangeet Kala Kendra.
- **Esha Das**, Dept. of English was awarded the first prize at 'Impulse' organised by Heramba Chandra College, Economics Department.
- **Deblina Adhikari**, Dept. of Chemistry won the 1st Prize in “ADvertiz” of SATRANGI, 21 organized by Heramba Chandra College.
- **Rishita Sengupta**, Dept. of Comp. Sc. was placed in the 2nd position in 'Build Your Bits' organized by Department of Physics, St. Xavier's College.
- **Sunetra Das**, Dept. of Chemistry won the 2nd Prize in Creative writing “SIYAAHI” (Bengali) and Amita Hembram, Dept. of English secured the 3rd position of the event SIYAAHI (English) of SATRANGI, 21 organized by Heramba Chandra College.
- **Tamara Guin**, Dept. of Sanskrit won the Kala Visharad Final (6th) year painting award from Chitrangan, School of Art.
- **Saheli Chakraborty**, Dept. of Sanskrit secured 2nd position in the Rabindra Nritya category of online Inter College Cultural Competition, organized by Muralidhar Girls College.
- **Bidisha Acharya**, Dept. of English won the 3rd position in Melomania held by Artriq Foundation.
- **Shrestha Dasgupta**, Dept. of Philosophy came 3rd in dialogue writing competition – Tete-a-tete of Jadavpur University literary society.
- **Shalini Majumdar**, Dept. of Zoology came 3rd in Envitiative, organised by University of Business School, Chandigarh.
- **Ananya Misra**, Dept. of Zoology secured the 3rd position in Inter College Singing Competition organised by Heramba Chandra College.

Our students have also expressed their creative abilities in writing. **Anoushka Banerjee** has co-authored an anthology “The Enticing Scribbles”. **Kirtika Surolia**, Dept. of Hindi published two articles on “The mindful” website and three articles on “The Pleasant Dream” website. **Srijoni Das**, Dept. of History published articles in the magazine Saptadinga and Bhorer Baarta.

STUDENTS' WEEK

As directed by the Government of West Bengal, the college celebrated Students' week from January 1- January 7, 2022. In view of rising Covid cases due to the Third Wave, all events were organised online. The events that were organised are:

1. Online Poster Making Competition, dated: 1st Jan'2022
2. Awareness about present pandemic situation with special emphasis on Omicron, dated: 2nd Jan'2022
3. Awareness about student credit card scheme and other government welfare schemes for students, dated: 3rd Jan'2022
4. Recitation Competition and Classical Music Competition, dated: 4th Jan'2022
5. Creative Writing Competition and Students' Counselling webinar, dated: 5th Jan'2022
6. Webinar on general healthcare awareness and fitness in current Covid19 situation, dated: 6th Jan'2022
7. Light Music Competition and Extempore Competition, dated: 7th Jan'2022

Student Support

The college actively promotes the government schemes of Kanyashree, Swami Vivekananda Merit cum Means Scholarship and Student Credit Card.

The **Kanyashree** Committee successfully processed the applications of 4 K1 scholarships and 60 K2 scholarships for UG students, and 90 K3 scholarships for PG students.

130 fresh applications for **Swami Vivekananda Merit cum Means Scholarship** were forwarded and 230 more were renewed during this session. Besides applications for **Aikyashree** [24 (new), 16 (renewed)], **OASIS scholarship** (20 students), **National Scholarship**(6 students), **Indira Gandhi Scholarship for the Single Girl Child**, and **Minority Scholarships** (SC/ST/OBC/Muslim) were also processed.

Student Aid: 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. In the previous session, thirty four (34) undergraduate students have received financial help from the college aid fund. The **Alumni Association of the college has donated Rs 20,000/-** to the Aid Fund on 12.08.21.

Special Camp on Student Credit Card: Following the directives of the Govt. of West Bengal, one online and several offline camps on **Student Credit Card** were organised in December 2021 to spread awareness and help the students avail of this facility.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS

Bethune College organised a number of webinars in the last session keeping its tradition of dissemination of knowledge intact even during the period of lockdown. The IQAC, Bethune College and several departments held webinars on diverse subjects. Special mention must be made of the **DVV training programme on data validation NAAC process** for the faculty members of Bethune College. **National Science Day** was observed on February 28, 2021 and several webinars were organised by the Departments of Zoology and Botany. An online coding competition was organised by the Dept of Computer Science.

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. In spite of the severe difficulties faced during the current situation, these departments organized several workshops and webinars. Students submitted posters and projects maintaining covid protocol.

- The department of Zoology organised a webinar on “In Silico approach for drug designing and discovery: An overview” on 26th March, 2021.
- The department of Physics organised a two day workshop on 4th and 5th May 2022 on “Simple Experiments using Arduino” for UG students.
- The Chemistry Department organised a Workshop on “Glimpses of Physical Chemistry Experiments” on 22nd May 2021 and a webinar on “Organic Reactions in

Water” on 24th May, 2021. They organised another webinar on “Synthetic Strategies in Chemistry” on 9th June, 2021.

- Dr. Punarbasu Chaudhuri, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science, University of Calcutta delivered a talk titled “Role of traditional biotechnological practices in sustainability: A case study from East Kolkata wetland” in a webinar jointly organised by the departments of Botany and Zoology on 25.06.2021.
- The department of Botany organised a Virtual Workshop on Biostatistics on 23.06.2021 and 24.06.2021. The invited speakers were Dr. Paramita Nandy (Datta) Assistant Professor (WBES), Sister Nibedita Government General Degree College for girls, Kolkata and Prof. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, Agricultural and Ecological Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata along with two in-house resource persons, DR. Dipayan Chattopadhyay and Dr Seemanti Ghosh.
- The department also organised a Virtual field visit to crop fields: Rice, Jute and Tea on 02.07.2021 and 03.07.2021. Dr, B. P. Mallikarjuna Swamy(Senior Scientist, Rice breeding and Biofortification International Rice Research Institute, Philippines), Dr. Biswajit Bera (Director Research, Tea Board India) and Dr. R. K. Mandal (Ex-Principal Scientist, CRIJAF) were the resource persons.

Some other programmes organised under DBT Star College Scheme include **A Photography Contest” on the occasion of World Wildlife Day** from 3rd to 31st March 2021 organised by the Department of Botany,

An Awareness Programme on “Biodiversity: Conservation and Commitment” was conducted by the students of UG Semester-V of the Department of Botany in the biodiversity rich places of their residential areas and college campus. The video was uploaded on the official college channel on YouTube on 25th May 2020.

Four poster presentations and ten review projects on varied curriculum relevant topics were successfully completed by the students of the Department of Chemistry by March 2021.

Th **4th Sanghamitra Sanyal Memorial Lecture** (Online) Organised by the Department of Botany on April 10,2021. Dr. Subhasis Panda (WBSES), Principal, Government General Degree College, Chapra delivered a lecture titled “Sacred Groves: A hidden treasure Trove of

herbal immunity booster to cure Covid-19 patients and need more local awareness for conservation before its extinction”.

The department of Computer Science organised a two day workshop on 2-day workshop on “Deep Web & Ethical Hacking” on 17&19 June, 2021.

The Department of English organised an interactive session with National Award Winning Filmmaker Mr Vinod Kapri titled “The Craft of Documentation in Film” which was held on 7/10/21.

STUDENTS’ EXCHANGE PROGRAMME with Hooghly Mohsin College

The Postgraduate Department of English, Bethune College participated in a Students’ Exchange Programme with the Postgraduate Department of English, Hooghly Mohsin College. Eleven teachers from both colleges lectured Even and Odd Semester UG and PG students of the two institutions in June 2021 and October-December 2021. The programme was quite successful as is evident from the feedback received from students of both colleges.

Human Rights Cell

This session witnessed the establishment of two new cells in the college. The formal inauguration of the Human Rights Cell was held on 29th June, 2021 with an online programme in which Principal, Prof (Dr) Krishna Roy delivered the inaugural lecture. The cell started functioning in December 2020 and has organised a lecture on Human Rights in collaboration with the Ethics and Value Education Committee in April 2021. Another lecture by Dr Samata Biswas, Assistant Professor of English, Sanskrit College and University on *#Dalit: Prantik Manusher Manobodhikarer Sangram* was held on 14/12/2021 on the occasion of International Human Rights Day.

The cell was established with the purpose of creating awareness amongst our students regarding human rights, its upkeep and violation. The cell also seeks to provide information about human rights movements & activists from all over the world. The bulletin of the Human Rights Cell, the quarterly online watchboard, '**Jagriti**'(Awakening) has been published on 29.6.21 and 26.2.2022 and is available on the college website.

Intellectual Property Rights Cell (IPR Cell)

With the aim of creating and sharing knowledge through ethical as well as legal frameworks, the Intellectual Property Rights Cell was introduced in Bethune College. The Cell observed **World Creativity and Innovation Day** on April 21, 2021, **World Book and Copyright Day** on April 23, 2021 and **World Intellectual Property Day** on April 26, 2021 with three intensely engaging webinars with reputed resource persons from diverse fields.

Recently, teachers and students participated in an online data security pledge on the occasion of **Data Privacy Day** on 28th January 2022.

Women Studies Centre

The Women's Studies Centre of the college celebrated Women's Day with a webinar titled "Our Narratives." An essay writing competition on women's issues was also held. The latest publication of the Centre is titled 'The Other Half: Meditations on Women's Space and Culture, Past and Present.'

College Publications

Among the prestigious publications by the College, worth mentioning is a collection of essays titled *Ethics and Values: Different Perspectives* that was formally released on 12th August 2021. A publication by the Women's Studies Centre of the college titled *The Other Half: Meditations on Women's Space and Culture, Past and Present* was formally released on 28/10/21 on the occasion of Sister Nivedita's Birth Anniversary.

The college magazine *Adiganto* dedicated to Abanindranath Tagore, Satyajit Ray and Atulprasad Sen was released on 21/12/21.

Two issues of the **College Newsletter** have been published in December 2020 and August 2021.

A commemorative volume of essays will be published soon to celebrate the **175th year of the arrival of John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune in India.**

E- PUBLICATIONS

The digitized version of the peer reviewed journal of the college ‘Heritage’ Vol. VII was published on 31.03.2021. It was formally released by Prof. Pratap Chandra Roy, Head, Department of Mathematics.

The Department of Statistics released an e-magazine containing students’ writings on February 28, National Science Day 2021. “EPISTEME” the e-journal of the Department of Physics was also published on February 28, 2021.

On June 5, World Environment Day, an e magazine “Sangbed” was published by NSS Unit of the College which was compiled and edited by students of the Department of History.

A departmental e- magazine titled “Aabhuday” was published by students of Semester 6, Department of Hindi on June 11, 2021.

TUESDAY LECTURE SERIES

Tuesday Lecture initiated by Prof. Krishna Roy, Principal, Bethune College, to encourage intellectual stimulation of teachers and pedagogic interaction amongst themselves continued to enrich the teaching community. Beginning on December 3, 2019 with the very stimulating lecture by our Principal Prof (Dr Krishna Roy), **a total of 18 Tuesday lectures** have been organised till date. During the pandemic, the lectures were uploaded on the official YouTube Channel of the college.

ETHICS & VALUE EDUCATION

A course on Ethics and Value Education has been a part of the educational experience in this college for many years. From the academic session 2020-21, this course has been reconstituted as a **30-hour course for the undergraduate students of Semester 1 and 2 of Bethune College**, under the able supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Krishna Roy, Principal, Bethune College. The objective of this course is to create awareness and commitment of the students to social responsibilities and to inculcate moral values in them, for improving the quality of life through education. The course being interdisciplinary in character, the content has been designed keeping in mind the theoretical as well practical aspects of ethics. The Ethics & Value Education Committee organised a series of online lectures delivered by eminent speakers from different fields. The Inaugural lecture was delivered by the Principal, Bethune College. Among other resource persons were academicians from renowned institutes like

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, University of Calcutta and Jadavpur and an Advocate-expert on Cyber security. Former and present teachers of different departments of the college also acted as Speakers.

Each student is assessed on the basis of an online test, submission of dissertation, presentation through a seminar and attendance. Feedback is taken at the end of each lecture/session and also at the end of the course. A certificate is given to the students on completion of the course.

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. Keeping the needs of students during lockdown, the course was conducted in the online mode in the last session.

The College **Library** has a rich collection of about 1,03,000 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. 3,09,049/-. The Library also provides access to various scholarly journals through a subscription to Inflibnet.

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. A total of **24,343 applications were received for 557 seats in 16 undergraduate Honours courses.**The entire UG admission process was successfully conducted in the online mode in 20 rounds. **This year no application fee was charged from the students as per government. order.** The PG admission was centrally conducted by the University of Calcutta.
- **CAS files** of 12 teachers were processed in 2021 by the CAS Committee and 2 teachers out of the 7 applicants in the previous batch have already received their promotion orders.

- 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.

SAC:

The Students' Committee and Students' Activity Cell have worked very hard in the previous session to keep spirits high and they have together organised several entertaining and informative events to keep the students engaged. The various clubs have organised workshops all round the year. Some of the memorable workshops have been the one on Shrutinatok, organised by the Film & Drama Club and the one on Preliminaries of Debating organised by the Debating Club. Other significant achievements of the Student Activity Cell include

1. **Organising Literocracy, a Literature Festival**, in collaboration with the Literary Club of Scottish Church College in August 2021. This event had an interesting set of competitions on Memes to Slam Poetry to Book Charades attended by several enthusiastic participants. The keynote speakers of the event included the celebrated Radio Jockey and voiceover artist Agnijit Sen, renowned poet Yashodhara Ray Chaudhuri and award winning poet and essayist Ballari Sen.
2. **Publication of their digital Newsletter: Vox Nostra.** Two volumes of the newsletter have been published in July 2021 and February 2022. Available on the college website.
3. **Social media presence** - engaging posts on social media highlighting departments on a weekly basis. All information about students' events available on the socials.
4. **Dedicated YouTube Channel** where all events have been uploaded and may be viewed.

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.

- On 12.04.2021, old clothes were distributed among the pavement dwellers from the college campus.
- **Workshop on 'Bratachari, the Famous Cultural Practice in West Bengal':** NSS unit of Bethune college continues Green initiative by distributing saplings to the members of Bengal Bratachari Society. An Workshop was organised on 24.04.2021 by NSS Unit, Bethune College in collaboration with Bengal Bratachari Society for Physical and Mental Skill Development of the Faculty Members and Non-teaching Staff.
- **A MoU was signed between Bethune College Sammilani and Bengal Bratachari Society, Kolkata on 24.04.2021 for 2 years on renewal basis for Bratachari Course of NSS Volunteers of the Bethune College.** The program has been initiated by the Special Secretary, Higher Education Department and Bethune College has been selected as the 1st college for such a venture. Introductory lecture was organised on 12th June, 2021 through online mode. Several eminent speakers from Bengal Bratachari Society like Prof. Shubhankar Sarkar (Chancellor, NSOU), Shrin Dipak Kumar Badapanda (Chancellor, Ashutosh Museum of Indian Art), Shri Banibrata Mukhopadhyay (Additional Secretary, Bratachari Society) including Special secretary sir, Shri Siladitya Basu Ray were present. Several workshops were organised via online and offline modes throughout the academic session. The 1st 48 hours certificate course is on the verge of its completion on 12.03.2022.
- **Bethune Day and Banmahotsav 2021:** This year NSS unit took the responsibility of the Banmahotsav programme on 12th August 2021, Bethune Day Celebration. Shrubs like Jarul, Hibiscus, Rangan, Amla plants were planted in the college premises.
- **75th Independence Day Observation 2021:** This year the NSS unit in collaboration with the Student activity cell actively organized the 75th independence day. The flag hoisting programme was followed by a short plantation programme by honourable Principal madam, TCS, teaching and non-teaching staffs to commemorate the 75th independence day of our nation. Sanitizer, mask, soap and biscuits were distributed to the slum dwellers in front of the college gate. Also to know about the present

vaccination and COVID status of the teaching and non-teaching staffs, a vaccination record drive was taken.

- **Distribution of stationeries to the school children of the street dwellers 2021:** On 25th August 2021, an initiative has been taken by the NSS unit of the college to distribute stationeries (copies, pen, pencil, color) to the school going children of the street dwellers in front of the college gate.
- **Distribution of old clothes:** Old clothes were distributed among the slum dwellers of Bidhan Sarani on 22nd September, 2021.
- **NSS Day celebration:** An online program was organized for the NSS volunteers on 23rd September, 2021 from 5:30 pm. Inaugural speech was given by Prof. Krishna Roy, Principal, Bethune College. Dr. Hiroj Kumar Saha, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Bethune College delivered a lecture on 'A general awareness about Dengue and its controlling measure'. An online poster competition on the topic "Pandemic, Poverty and Starvation: A socio-economic impact of COVID-19" was also organised for the NSS volunteers on 24th September to celebrate NSS Day.
- **Distribution of new clothes to Orphanage:** The NSS Unit of Bethune College has distributed new clothes among the 51 children of the 'Nalta Arindam Welfare Society' before Durga Puja on 4th October, 2021. Stationeries (copies, pen, pencil, color) and food were also provided to the children by the faculty members of the college.
- On 22nd November, the NSS unit organized a toilet cleaning and maintenance drive to celebrate **World Toilet Day**. Posters with Toilet Rules were prepared by the NSS volunteers and circulated and posted on student toilets of the college.
- On 23rd November, the NSS unit organized a campus cleaning and maintenance drive with NSS volunteers.
- **Awareness Program on College Biodiversity:** On 29th and 30th November (Monday and Tuesday) an awareness program on college biodiversity was organized for the NSS volunteers by the NSS unit in collaboration with the Department of Botany. The faculties have shared their knowledge on the medicinal plant garden and the biodiversity of the college Placards were posted for the plants to be maintained by the NSS unit.

- **World AIDS Day Celebration:** An AIDS awareness program was arranged on 1st December from from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. in collaboration with Rotary Club of Ganga Heritage, Kolkata. Dr. Sumit Poddar, renowned Virologist shared his views on this occasion.
- **Breast Awareness Program:** The NSS unit of Scottish Church College have jointly organized a Breast Awareness Webinar with the NSS unit of Bethune College in collaboration with HCG EKO Cancer Centre on 7th December, 2021 from 4:30 pm onwards.
- **Seminar on 'General Awareness about Female Reproductive Health':** Student's Activity cell in association with the NSS unit have organised a seminar on General Awareness about Female Reproductive Health on 2nd December, 2021 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Eminent Gynecologist and Medical director of Birth and Gynoscopy, Dr. Goutam Khastagir was the speaker on the above occasion.
- A webinar on “**General health care wellness and fitness in current situation**” in collaboration with Rotary club of Ganga Heritage and Shivananda Health Society on 06.01.2022 to celebrate the 6th day of Student’s week .
- **73rd Republic day** was celebrated by NSS unit in collaboration with Student activity cell On 26.01.2022. Flag hoisting was followed by Principal’s speech and short cultural program by the teaching and non-teaching staffs of the college and ended with National anthem and planting of saplings in the college premises.

Career Counselling Cell:

In the previous session, several webinars were organised by the Career Counselling Cell in collaboration with departments where resource persons were former students of the college addressing the juniors of their respective departments about the future prospects of their specific subjects. This resulted in engaging interactions between past and present students which were intellectually stimulating and eventually quite beneficial. Other webinars include “**Career opportunities for graduates of humanities/ social sciences**” and “**Career growth in the workplace: Women vis-a-vis men**” in which Dr Rupa Majumdar, Director and Editor of Dev Sahitya Kutir was the resource person.

In the on campus recruitment drive conducted by Cognizant Solutions, 18 of our students have been selected in the previous session.

COLLEGE EVENTS

ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

Annual prize distribution ceremony of Bethune college was conducted in the blended offline-online mode on February 27, 2021. A select gathering of few senior teachers, Heads of Departments/ representatives of departments, committee members and only toppers of undergraduate examinations with recipients of five prestigious endowment medals of the college were invited to be present in the College Auditorium. Sri Jawhar Sircar was the Chief Guest and Prof. Jayasree Roy Chowdhury was the Guest of Honour. Sri. Debashis Biswas, Inspector of Colleges, CU, Principal Prof. Krishna Roy, some former principals and alumni were among the other distinguished guests. Dr. Sharmistha Mukhopadhyay who was an alumni of this institution was felicitated with the Kadambini Ganguly Memorial Award. All other prize winners attended the programme virtually and were requested to collect their prize from respective departments later.

New Prizes introduced from this year:-

1. It is our great honour that Smt. Kasturi Gupta Menon, the daughter of our illustrious alumni **Smt. Ashoka Gupta** has donated Rs. 3 lacs in the memory of her mother. A special endowment prize for the **Highest Proficiency in B.Sc. (Science category)** has been initiated on the basis of a part of this fund. The mementos and awards of Smt. Ashoka Gupta have been kept in the newly inaugurated **Bethune College Archive**.
2. **Shefali Bhattacharyya Memorial Gold Medal for Academic Excellence** is being introduced from this session, donated by her son **Sri Pritam Bhattacharya**.
3. **Dr. Sunanda Ghosh**, former teacher of the college has donated another award titled **Chandramukhi Basu Memorial Prize for the best all-rounder**, which is being introduced from this prize ceremony.
4. Special mention must be made of another award titled **Bethune Prize for Consistent Academic Record from School Level in Mathematics**, which is being initiated from this year. It has been donated by Dr. Kumkum Chattopadhyay, former teacher of the college and President of *Bethune College Sammilani*.

REPUBLIC DAY & Independence Day

Independence Day and Republic Day were observed in the College premises on 15.8.21 and 26.1.2022. Principal Prof. Krishna Roy hoisted the National Flag in the presence of teaching and teaching supporting staff of the College.

ONLINE YOGASANA COMPETITION

An online Yogasana competition was organised to commemorate World Yoga Day. Ten students took part in the online Yogasana competition which was held on March 19, 2021. All the videos were sent to Honorable Judge Dr. Malay Kumar Mukhopadhyay, Joint DPI, Bikash Bhavan, Saltlake, Kolkata for judgment of ranks.

RABINDRA JAYANTI

The occasion was not observed with the fanfare that it is celebrated every year due to the raging pandemic situation in India at that moment. A short speech was addressed to the students and Faculty by the Principal Prof. (Dr.) Krishna Roy online and a video was uploaded in the official YouTube channel of the college by the students.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

5th June , 2021 was celebrated by the Student Activity Cell with a programme titled “**Revive and Survive: Conversations on World Environment Day**”. The Department of Zoology in collaboration with IQAC organised a programme which included a Survey on Ecological Awareness of the Population of West Bengal, a quiz, an essay writing competition, documentation of the faunal distribution of the locality of Bethune college, e-slogan writing, and a webinar “**Termite : Natural Recycler and Soil engineer of the Environment**”.

BETHUNE DAY

Bethune day and Banomahotsab was celebrated on 12th August, 2021. The day started with members of teaching and non teaching staff headed by the Principal, paying homage to John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune’s tomb at Bethune Bithi, Lower Circular Road Cemetery. Later in the day, the Principal along with members of Alumni Association of Bethune College, teachers and non- teaching staff went to Bethune School to pay tribute to Bethune’s bust.

Next, a floral tribute was offered at Bethune's plaque in the college campus. On this occasion, saplings were planted and students who could not be in college due to Covid-19, planted saplings in their homes. The Bethune Day speech was delivered by former Associate Professor and alumna of Bethune College, Dr. Kumkum Chattopadhyay. An anthology of essays titled Ethics and Values: Different Perspectives and the Second volume of the College Newsletter were formally released on this day.

AALAP

The Intra-college Competition cum Annual College Fest AALAP 2021 was held on 22nd December 2021 in virtual mode. The inaugural ceremony was held in the college premises on 20th December 2021. Some events like Creative Writing, Film Poster Designing, Photography and other events like Western Music, Eastern Music, Eastern Dance, Western Dance, Recitation were held online. Entries from online events were submitted earlier and after preliminary screening the best 15 entries from each event were sent to external judges. The results were announced during the event and the winning performances were shown on the college YouTube channel. The only live event of the fest was the Debate on the motion "Unconditional Euthanasia should be made legal in India ."

BHASA DIBAS & MINI BOOK FAIR

International Mother Language Day was celebrated in the college campus on 21st February 2022. Guests of honour for the occasion were celebrated author and publisher Sri Debajyoti Bhattacharya and noted writer and photographer Sri Arindam Debnath. A Mini Book Fair was also organised on this occasion in which around 22 publishers participated.

ANNUAL SPORTS

Annual sports was held on 25th February, 2022 at Bethune College. Students and faculty members (teaching and non-teaching staff) took part in four events namely 100 m and 200 m run, Long Jump and Slow Cycling. Principal Prof. Krishna Roy inaugurated the Annual sports. Dr Pintu Sil, OIC, State Institute of Physical Education for Women, Hastings House, was the Guest of Honour. A special prize for the Best Athlete, **Nandini Raha Memorial Award** is being introduced from this year in the memory of our beloved former teacher and

sports enthusiast Nandinidi. Simran Chaudhary, from Dept. of Computer Science is the recipient of this award in its inaugural year, i.e. 2022.

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.

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.

Publications and Invited Lectures

Principal Prof (Dr) Krishna Roy's book Rosalind Franklin, A Short Biography was published in 2021 by Grontho Tirtho. Prof. Roy also has to her credit another book titled *Shotobarshe Rosalyn Yalow, Ekti Nari: Ekti Nakshatra Jiban*, published in July 2021. She also authored another book titled *Je Din Geche Bheshe*. Her paper "Matilda Effect and those unsung Women Scientists" has been published in the Newsletter: Journal of Women Studies Center, Lady Brabourne College, Vol 11, 2021. During the last session she delivered more than 20 invited talks and lectures at SNU, NSOU, Academy Of Research for Cultivation of Indian Sciences and FIP programmes organised by HRDC, University of Calcutta, to name a few.

Dr. Ranjana Sharma published a book titled *Ped Karte Hain Intazar* (collection of Poems) in February 2021, followed by another book titled *Bangla Lokgeeton ka Samajshastra*. Smt. Suchimita Maitra published a book titled *Nivedita: Ek Aloukik Abishkaar*. Dr. Anwasha Khan published a book titled *Rabindra Kobitar Kobikrito Ingraji Anubaad*. Dr Abhijit Bhattacharya of the Hindi department penned two books during this session- **The Perpetual Pilgrim: The Jaina Sadhvi Identity** and *Tirthankar Parashwanath: Paramparar Alokey*.

Dr. Anindita Datta's *Dojakh Diary* was published in December 2021. Sri Sumanta Mukhopadhyay's book of poems titled *Autoroute* was published in January 2022.

Prof Pratap Ch Ray, Dr Sanjib Basu, Dr Saswati Laha, Dr Dipayan Chattopadhyay, Dr Sritama Mukherjee, Dr Anwasha Khan, Dr Sulakshana Karmakar, Dr Sourav Ganguly, Dr Nilanjana Bagchi, Dr Debadeepa Banerjee, Dr Mohua Chatterjee, Dr Syamali Sen, Smt Debanjana Basu, Dr Rupa Pal, Dr Debaprasad Pal, Dr Bithi Chatteraj, Dr Hiroj Kr Saha and Dr Dipyaman Pal have all **published papers in reputed national and international journals.**

Our teachers were invited as **resource persons** in various conferences and seminars. Some of them delivered invited talks. Dr Mandira Mitra of the English Department was invited to deliver a talk on Amitav Ghosh by the Department of English, Hooghly Mohsin College on 7.1.2022.

Dr Piyali Gupta of the Dept of English delivered two invited lectures in the Department of English, NEHU, Shillong and Chandernagore College on Women's Autobiographies on 6.10.21 & 11.12.21.

In keeping with the service rules, there have been new appointments and retirements. Dr. **Ashok Kumar Das**, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Botany retired in January 2022. Among the non teaching staff members, **Sri Sanjib Dhar** and **Sri Netai Chandra Dey** retired from service.

With a profound sense of grief, we mourn the demise of Smt Saoli Mitra, eminent theatre personality and former President of the Governing Body of Bethune College who passed away on January 16, 2022.

With generous help and encouragement from 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.