

Annual Report of Bethune College (2022- 2023)

February 2022 - 11.2.2023

We take great pleasure in presenting before this assembly a brief report of the activities and achievements of the College during the session 2022-23. 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.

Reaccredited by NAAC in 2015 with 'A' grade, Bethune College initiates new and innovative methods for quality enhancement, as per the recommendations of the NAAC Peer Team. We are now ready for the third cycle of NAAC Peer Team Visit this March.

We secured **74th rank nationally in the College Category in the assessment by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (MHRD)** in the current session, the only Government College from West Bengal to feature among the first 100 colleges. NIRF data for this session has been uploaded.

Other rankings: Bethune College was placed in the **23rd position in India and 3rd in West Bengal** according to **Education World India rankings 2022-23 in the Non-Autonomous College Category**. According to a survey conducted by **India Today**, Bethune College secured **5th rank in the Eastern region and 74th rank in Arts and 92nd rank in Science category in the country**. Bethune College also received the **Education Eminence Award, 2022** as the **Best Women's College in Academic Excellence** from News 18 Bangla.

Bethune College has the lowest fees among all Government colleges in West Bengal and according to a survey conducted by **India Today** in July 2022, our College has ranked **6th in terms of low fees among the best colleges in India offering quality education at a nominal cost**.

After a series of correspondence since 2017, finally after a trip to the UGC office in New Delhi, the error in UGC website was rectified listing Bethune College as a Government college with a certificate for the 2F and 12 B status in November, 2022.

It is our pleasure to inform the assembly that the Governing Body of Bethune College was reconstituted in December 2021 with Hon'ble MIC Dr Shashi Panja as the President, and three meetings of the Governing Body have been held till date.

INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

Among recent developments, Bethune College Girls' Hostel was inaugurated on 06.08.2022 by Dr. Shashi Panja, President, Governing Body, Bethune College and Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, Department of Industries, Commerce & Enterprises and Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal. PWD formally handed over the hostel to the Officer in Charge of the college on 1st November, 2022 in the presence of members of the Hostel Committee.

The College acknowledges with gratitude the installation of water dispensers in the college premises donated by the Hon'ble MIC, Dr. Shashi Panja.

A new classroom has been created on the first floor of the administrative building, where PG classes are being held. The construction of a ramp is in progress, with a generous donation from Dr. Sumitra Chowdhury, our alumna. The College garden has been cleaned and a green cover has been added as a beautification measure, from funds donated by Dr. Sunanda Ghosh, member of the Alumni Association. Sri Arun Kumar Chowdhury, husband of Smt Tandra Ganguly, late teacher of the philosophy department, made a generous donation for renovation of the canteen.

An important addition to the library resources during this session is the **Sayantani Adhikary Collection** of books, donated by the Sayantani Adhikary Foundation to the Department of English in memory of this exceptionally gifted former student of our college.

As part of the green initiatives taken by the College, a self-sustaining Ecosystem Aquarium was installed recently in the Science library.

AUDIT

Five years' of financial audit of the college was completed on 20.08.2022.

In preparation for NAAC, External Academic Audit was conducted by Swami Shastrajnananda Maharaj, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Saradapith, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, Sri Debashish Biswas, Inspector of Colleges, University of Calcutta, Dr Samrat Bhattacharya, Associate Professor of Zoology and IQAC Coordinator, Scottish Church College and Dr Ratnabali Banerjee, Former Jt Secretary, UGC ERO, on 29/7/22. **Internal Academic Audit of all departments** was conducted over a period of time from 29.6.22.

STUDENT RESULTS and ACHIEVEMENTS:

Now coming to students' results and achievements Our students have done consistently well in all university examinations. The most important stakeholders, our students, are worthy inheritors of the rich legacy of this college. Our student strength this session combining the undergraduate and postgraduate streams is around 1230.

UG & PG RESULTS

In the last session, **208** (Eco & Psychology included) UG students secured CGPA over 6 in Humanities & Social Sciences and **164** UG students secured CGPA over 7 in Science subjects. Special mention must be made of 3 (three) students from Philosophy, 9 (nine) from Psychology and 24 (twenty-four) students from Economics who secured CGPA over 8. There were 09 students in Science securing CGPA above 9 (3 from Chemistry, 2 from Physics and 4 from Statistics).

It is a matter of great pride that **Paulomi Das of the Statistics Department with a CGPA of 9.447 has scored the highest CGPA amongst all Science students in BSc Semester VI Examination, 2022.**

Prestigious scholarships: We are glad that **21 students** in our Science departments are **INSPIRE scholars** [10(Chemistry)+ 10(Physics) + 1(Zoology)]. Besides, **3 students** from the Physics department have secured the prestigious **JBNSTS scholarship Bigyani Kanya Medhabritti in 2022.**

PG Results & Student Progression:

PG results were equally good with as many as **71** students securing CGPA over 6 in their final semester. We feel proud that many of our students have successfully cleared competitive examinations like NET, JAM, JEST, GATE, CSIR NET, JRF IIT-ISM Entrance tests 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:-

SUMANA DAS, a student of Sem 4, Department of Psychology had participated in the 8th Netaji Subhash State Games 2022 in Taekwondo as a representative of Kolkata district, organized by – Bengal Olympic Association and managed by Bengal Taekwondo Association. She bagged the Gold medal in 46 kg weight category in Kyorugi held on 15-16 May, 2022 at Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, Kolkata.

Shanmoyee Bhattacharjee (History) won the Gold Medal in the event Discus Throw at the District Athletics Meet on 26 March 2022.

Srijani Ghosh, UG Semester 4 student of the Department of English won the Second Prize in the Reading Shakespeare Contest organised by the Department of English, Sister Nivedita University in April 22, 2022.

Angela Roy of Physics Department was the RJ Talent Hunt Winner.

Academic Activities of Students:

The students of all departments are encouraged to participate in various academic activities to facilitate learning beyond textbooks.

- Anushka Chatterjee of Zoology PG sem 3 was one of the ten participants from India to successfully complete a two week creative writing and cultural exchange program of the Summer Institute hosted by the University of Iowa and fully sponsored by the US Embassy.
- Trishani Das, PG Sem 4 of Botany Department, presented a paper at 5th Regional Science Congress, 2022-23, 4th-5th January, 2023 at Maulana Azad College, Kolkata
- Snigdhashree Manna, Anwasha Sarkar, Diya Bhowmick of the Botany Department participated in National Seminar on Trajectory of Plant Research and Diversity in 75 Years of Independence of India, Jointly organized by Dept. of Botany, Shri Shikshayatan College and ICAR- CENTRAL on 02.12.22 and 03.12.22.
- Adrija Bhattacharyya, Sohini Dey and Anandita Datta (Psychology) presented a poster titled 'Therapeutic Effect of Raagas on Psychological and Physical Well-being' in an International Seminar on Peace Psychology organized by Department of Psychology, West Bengal State University on 27.05.2022.
- Anandita Datta and Prakriti Ghosh Hajra (Psychology) presented a paper titled 'Parenting and Adolescence: An Analysis of the Various Dimensions of Parental Influence on Adolescents' in a two-day International Seminar on Developing a Healthy Mind: Role of Society, Culture and Education organized by Department of Education, Jadavpur University in May 2022.
- 4 PG students of the Department of English- Nilanjana Mukherjee, Sutapa Roy, Arusha Paul and Shampa Bhattacharya have presented papers at a Workshop on Research Methodology for Migration Studies organized by Centre for Studies on Borders and Movements.
- Snigdhashree Manna and Sudipta Hazra of Botany Department participated in Hands on Training on Plant Biotechnology, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Centenary College, Rahara from 09.11.22 to 11.11.22. They also participated in a 2-day National Seminar (Online) on Cytogenetics, in- vitro culture and Phytochemistry of Plants and Microbes for Sustainable Use by the Department of Botany, Viswa Bharati University on 22.01.22 and 23.01.22.
- Snigdhashree Manna, of Botany department, stood 4th in Inter College Quiz Competition on the occasion of World Environment Day organised by West Bengal Pollution Control Board at Science City Auditorium on 05.06.22.
- Dhruaba Roy Chowdhury and Swagata Bhattacharjee of the Botany department presented a poster on the occasion of World Science Day for Peace and Development at Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Centenary College, Rahara on 10th November, 2022.

- Dhrubaa Roy Chowdhury along with Ahana Das presented another poster at the Agri and Food Innovation Fest, PRAKRITI of IIT Kharagpur on 2.4.22.

Excursions

BOTANY: In 2022-23, the PG Department of Botany conducted educational tours as part of curriculum to Nimpith, Taki, Golpater Jungle, Kalimpong, Kalyani University and AJC Bose Botanical Garden.

ZOOLOGY: Teachers and students of the department participated in a programme on Zoo Lovers' Day on 08.04.2022 organized by the Alipore Zoological Garden, Kolkata. The department also conducted an excursion to Manas National Park, Assam and a local field visit to Shibpur Botanical Garden, Howrah as required by the curriculum.

CHEMISTRY: Industry Visit with the teachers and students to CHEMTREAT TECHNOLOGIES, S.K. Industrial Plaza, Shankharipota Main Road, Kalagachia, Hanspukur, on 20.12.2022.

Co-curricular Activities by students

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

- NSS volunteer Ravinder Kaur (Physics) represented Bethune College in the prestigious National NSS Adventure Camp at Atal Behari Bajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Narkanda from 10/11/2022 to 19/11/2022.
- A team of three UG students from Philosophy, Psychology and English bagged the 1st Runner's Up Prize for Photography in Managedia 2022.
- Ashmita Datta (Psychology) won 1st position in a creative writing event organised by UEM College in March 2022.
- Manami Nandi (Sanskrit) won the Best Dancer Award in folk dance organised by Geetabitan.
- Madhuparna Das (Physics) came second in the Inter College Recitation Competition organized by Bijoygarh Jyotish Roy College.
- Madhusree Das of the department of English won 2nd position in Literary Quiz, Transcendence of Characters, organized by the Literary Society of Shri Shikshayatan College.

STUDENTS' WEEK: As directed by the Government of West Bengal, the college celebrated Students' week from January 2- January 7, 2023. The events that were organised are:

1. Awareness Programme on Students' Welfare Schemes of the Government of West Bengal, dated: 2nd January, 2023.
2. Awareness Programmes on Psychological Counselling and Career Counselling, dated 3rd January, 2023.
3. Orientation Programme by NSS Unit, Bethune College and Health Check up conducted by NSS Unit in collaboration with DESUN Hospital & Heart Institute, dated 4th January, 2023.
4. Creative Writing Competition on Rabindranath Tagore organised by Literary Club, Students' Activity Cell and Classical Music (Vocal) Competition organised by Cultural Club, Students' Activity Cell on 5th January, 2023.
5. Seminar on Women's Studies, 'Women in Theatre', dated: 6th Jan'2023
6. Ethics and Value Education Lecture, dated: 7th Jan'2023

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 09 applications of K2 scholarships.

238 fresh applications for **Swami Vivekananda Merit cum Means Scholarship** were forwarded and 222 more were renewed during this session. Besides applications for **Aikyashree** [24 (new), 16 (renewed)], **OASIS scholarship** (57 students) have been processed. **12 new and 21 renewal applications have been processed under Central Sector Scheme, Indira Gandhi Scholarship for the Single Girl Child, Post Matric Scholarship and Ishan Uday Scheme.**

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, a sum of 13,000/- was disbursed among thirteen (13) undergraduate students from the college aid fund.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

The IQAC, Bethune College and several departments held seminars on diverse subjects.

An Investor education awareness workshop was conducted by SEBI on 13th October, 2022 in the college, as part of World Investor Week 2022. It was jointly organised by IQAC and Career Counselling Cell of the college. On 23rd February, 2023, IQAC will organise a seminar on National Education Policy with Inspector of Colleges Sri Debashish Biswas as the speaker.

Special mention must be made of the seminar organised by the PG Department of Bengali “Kobitar Du Ekti Poth o Pod-Chinho” on 20th December, 2022 with celebrated poet Joy Goswami as the speaker.

A Mental Health Awareness Programme ‘In Search of Well-Being’ was organised by the Department of Psychology in collaboration with the Sayantani Adhikary Foundation on 9th December, 2022. The resource persons were Professor Pritha Mukhopadhyay, Department of Psychology, University of Calcutta and Dr Aniruddha Deb, Consultant Psychiatrist.

The PG Department of English organised seminars on Mary Wollstonecraft, Sholay and Amrita Pritam on 29th November, 23rd April and 9th April, 2022 respectively. The speakers were Prof Aparna Bandyopadhyay, Professor of History, Diamond Harbour Women’s University, Dr Sandip Mondal, Associate Professor, Dept of English, Calcutta University and Ms Indrani Ganguly, Retd Interpreting Officer, Calcutta High Court. The department also organised a Students’ Seminar on Romantic Poetry on 26th April, 2022.

The Department of History organised the Birangana Kalpana Dutta Memorial Lecture on 12th December, 2022 where Professor Sudeshna Banerjee, Dept of History, Jadavpur University delivered a lecture on ‘Biplaber Pourush, Purusher Biplab: Ekti Tattik o Oitihasi Nirikkhya.’

An agreement for collaboration was signed between Dept of History, Bethune College and Dept of History, Scottish Church College on 17th May, 2022. Both departments organised a Student Poster Presentation on India @ 75 Commemorating 75 Years of India's Independence on 16.11.2022.

The 5th Sanghamitra Sanyal Memorial Lecture was organised by the PG Department of Botany on 11.04.2022 with Dr. Subir Bandyopadhyay, Former Scientist, Botanical Survey of India as the speaker.

Department of Chemistry organised a webinar on Careers in Chemistry on 22nd May, 2022 in which Dr. Namrata Ray, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Santipur College and Ms. Shruti Mukherjee, Chemist, Customs House Laboratory, CBIC, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India were the resource persons.

The department also organised a One-Day Students’ Workshop on 20/09/2022 titled ‘Hands on training programme for physical chemistry experiment using Excel and Fortran 77’ with Dr. Sharmila Bhattacharya, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, Vidyasagar College and Dr.

Anirban Karmakar, SACT (Category-1) Department of Chemistry, Bankim Sardar College as the speakers.

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. Several workshops and seminars were arranged under the DBT star College Scheme.

- Department of Mathematics organised a One day faculty development programme on Scientific Computing Using SAGEMATH and R on 31st March, 2022
- The Department of Chemistry organised a One Day Workshop on Training for Separation and Identification of Organic Compounds on 13th April, 2022 and another day long workshop on Synthesis: Conventional and Green Method on 27th April, 2022.
- The departments of Chemistry & Botany organised a Workshop on organic compost preparation-utilisation of domestic waste on 10th March, 2022. The department held a seven day workshop on Research Techniques from 25.4.2022-2.5.2022. A Workshop on Lab Techniques on Phycology, Mycology, Plant Pathology and Microbiology was organised on 6th-7th December, 2022.
- The Department of Zoology organised a Lecture on World Environment Day (6.6.2022) in which the speaker was Prof. Dipak Ranjan Mandal, Former Director of Public Instructions, Government of West Bengal & Former Vice-Chancellor, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University.

Under DBT sponsored scheme a total of 19 participants (16 UG sem I and three faculty members) from the department of Zoology visited Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) on 20.12.2022 to learn fishing techniques, fish production, developing ornamental fish and research activity of fish culture.

25 students of the Department of Botany undertook projects as an extension of their semester curriculum of Plant Biotechnology from November 2021 to March 2022. 19 scientific posters were also prepared by the students on different topics of Plant Tissue Culture. Current batch of UG Sem-V students are presently doing a project on tissue culture of medicinal plants from November 2022.

Human Rights Cell

A street play to increase awareness about women's rights was performed by the students on 14th March, 2022, organised jointly by the Human Rights Cell and the NSS unit of the college. In collaboration with the Ethics and Value Education Committee, a lecture on the 19th century social reformer and human activist, Savitribai Phule was organised by the HR Cell on March 16th, 2022 with Dr Piyali Gupta, Assistant Professor, PG Dept of English, Bethune College as the speaker.

To observe International Human Rights Day on 10th December, 2022, the Human Rights Cell & Women's Studies Cell organized an interactive session on Trafficking of Women & Children. At the beginning of the programme, there was a poster presentation **Right to Life, Right to Smile** by the student volunteers of the NSS unit of the College. The third and fourth issues of the online bulletin of Human Rights Cell **Jagruti** (Awakening) were uploaded on the college website on 12th April 2022 and 20th November, 2022.

Women's Studies Centre (updated)

The Women's Studies Centre and Department organized a Programme in collaboration with the NSS, Bethune College to commemorate International Women's Day on March 8, 2022. Some students of the College spoke on the significance of Women's Day and Dr. Mainak Chandra, Assistant Professor, R. G. Kar Medical College, Kolkata spoke on Women's Bone Health. A Career Counselling Cum Gender Sensitization Seminar was organized by Career Counselling Cell and Women's Studies Centre, Bethune College on 27th April, 2022 as the second lecture of the Bethune Memorial Lecture Series 2021-22. Smt. Rupa Majumder, Director and Editor, Dev Sahitya Kutir spoke on "Gender Bias in Workplace."

The Third Bethune Memorial Lecture on Gender Sensitization was held on 17/8/2022 with Dr Manobi Bandyopadhyay, Principal, Dhola Mahavidyalaya as speaker.

To observe International Human Rights Day, on 10/12/22 Human Rights Cell & Women Studies Centre organized an interactive session on Trafficking of Women and Children. Resource persons were Ms.Tinku Khanna, Social Activist, Ms. Srabani Sarkar Neogi, Founder Secretary and Director, Hamari Muskan and Mumtaz who shared her first hand experience with the audience.

College Publications

Among the prestigious publications by the College, worth mentioning is a collection of essays on J.E.D. Bethune, titled *John Elliott Drinkwater Bethune: Chhayapather Ek Bichitro Abhijatri* highlighting his contribution to the fields of history, literature, science, education, law and administration, was formally released on 12th of July, 2022 to commemorate his 221st birth anniversary and the 175th year of his arrival in India.

The 8th volume of the academic journal of the college, **Heritage** was released on 8th March, 2022. An issue of the **College Newsletter** was published on 31st August, 2022. The second issue of the digital magazine of the Department of Computer Science *Tech Tonic* was released on 25.5.2022. The students of the department of History brought out an e-magazine *Kotha Chitra: Nabajaganer Aloy Fire Dekha Kallolini* 2022-23. The outgoing batch of students of the Philosophy department published a wall magazine- *Barttika*.

TUESDAY LECTURE SERIES

To encourage intellectual stimulation and pedagogic interaction among teachers, the Tuesday Lecture series was introduced. Beginning on 3rd December, 2019, **a total of 23 Tuesday lectures** have been organised till date.

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** with the objective of creating awareness about social responsibilities and moral values. The course lays emphasis on theoretical as well practical aspects of ethics. The Ethics & Value Education Committee organised a series of lectures in the third session of the 30 Hour Course in 2022-23. The Inaugural lecture was delivered by Swami Jnanalokanandaji Maharaj, Secretary, Swami Vivekananda Ancestral House & Cultural Centre on 13.12.2022.

As part of the course, students visited Ramakrishna Mission Swami Vivekananda Ancestral House and Cultural Centre, Kolkata on 26-28 April, 2022. A One Day yoga workshop titled ‘Therapeutic Measures for Control over Mind and Body’ was conducted by Dr Pintu Sil, Officer-in-Charge, State Institute of Physical Education for Women, Hastings House on April 29, 2022 as part of the Ethics and Values course.

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

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 1,02,143 books and journals. These include some rare and priceless books and journals. In this session, the Library purchased books and journals worth Rs. 68, 193/-. The Library also provides access to various scholarly journals through a subscription to Infilbnet. Recently the library has initiated the WEB-OPAC online catalogue browsing service, available through the institutional website.

- 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 **18, 097 applications were received for 557 seats in 16 undergraduate Honours courses**. The entire UG admission process was

successfully conducted in the online mode. PG admission was centrally conducted by the University of Calcutta.

- **CAS files** of 24 teachers were processed in 2022-23 by the CAS Committee.
- 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

This year has been very prestigious for the Quiz & Debate Club, run by Students' Activity Cell. On invitation of the Office of the District Magistrate & Collector, Hooghly District, Govt of West Bengal, a series of Debate Workshops, were organised by the Club, for the Kanyashree girl students of Hooghly District. This outreach programme is the first of its kind to be organised in West Bengal as part of the Kanyashree scheme. The workshops were conducted by Prof. Sanjukta Roy, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Bethune College, and successfully completed by 30 students of Serampore Girls' High School. All the participants were given certificates. Recently an agreement was signed between the Officer-in-charge of the College and the District Magistrate, Hooghly district for conducting a more extensive training programme involving Kanyashree girls from the entire district and the establishment of a Debating Society.

Literocracy 2022, a literary festival, was jointly organised by the Literary Club of Bethune College, and, Literary Society of Scottish Church College. This was the second year of the festival. Held on 8th and 9th of April, 2022, the festival included events like "A Tell-Tale Heart" (Nanotale Writing), Book Charades, Book Advertisement, Literary Quiz, Soliloquy and more. Literocracy saw a huge participation from colleges across the city like Medical College, Lady Brabourne College, Maulana Azad College and more.

Intra-college competition 2022 was held on 16th and 17th December, 2022. This year the event was held offline after two years. Students participated in large numbers with great enthusiasm. In all, the competition was organized in 21 categories.

On 23rd August 2022, Students' Activity Cell organized a **Lecture on Mental Health Awareness** in collaboration with Sayantani Adhikary Foundation, in memory of our former student and Secretary of Photography Club, Sayantani Adhikary. The lecture was delivered by former Principal, Prof. Dr. Krishna Roy.

On 21st September 2022, a campus cleaning cum awareness programme was jointly organized by Science and Environment Club (under Students' Activity Cell) and NSS Bethune College Unit.

NSS (updated)

The importance of community service is impressed upon our students as it is our mission to impart holistic education. NSS Volunteers and members were involved in yearlong activities.

- **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 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. The first course was completed on 12.03.2022. Certificates were distributed to 24 NSS Volunteers, the first batch of Bratachari students from Bethune College on 15th August, 2022 after successful completion of Bratachari "Paramvik Course".
- The new session for "Bratachari Course" started on 25th August, 2022 with an inaugural session including eminent speakers from Bengal Bratachari Society.
- The NSS Advisory Committee was formed with Officer-in-charge, two external members, two internal members, two student members and Program Officer and the 1st meeting of the same was convened on 13th December, 2022. **On that day the slum area associated with Goabagan, Swikriti Sangha was formally adopted by the Bethune College NSS Unit.**
- A seven day Special Camp was organized from 08.03.2022 to 14.03.2022. Fifty student volunteers from UG Semester-IV participated in the Camp at Bethune college and Swikriti Sangha Club, Goabagan. The camp included seminars, slum visit, awareness programmes, organic manure production, campus cleanliness drive and health camp. The Special camp was inaugurated by **NSS State Nodal Officer, Dr. Ramaprasad Bhattacharya.**
- On the 3rd day of the special camp, a workshop on "**Organic Compost Preparation-utilization of domestic waste**" was organized by the NSS unit in collaboration with the Departments of Botany and Chemistry under DBT STAR College Scheme. Vegetable wastes were brought by students from their houses and college canteen and organic manure unit was created under the guidance of faculty members of Department of Botany and Chemistry (**Dr. Seemanti Ghosh and Dr. Amita Kar**).
- **Distribution of old clothes among the Slum dwellers on 11th April, 2022:** Old clothes, collected from the teachers and students of the college, were distributed among the pavement dwellers in the Ramdulal Street area.
- A seminar on '**Thalassemia Awareness**' was organized in collaboration with Rotary Club of

Ganga Heritage and NSS Unit, Surendranath College, Kolkata on 23.04. The speaker was **Dr. Ramendu Hom Chaudhury, MS Specialization Orthopaedic Sri Aurobindo Seva Kendra.**

- 12 NSS Volunteers participated in the **"One-day NSS workshop"** organized by **Ramakrishna Mission, Swami Vivekananda's Ancestral House and Cultural Centre** on 12th May, 2022.
- Students from NSS and Student Activity Cell participated in the **"World Environment Day" Program and Quiz contest at Science City Auditorium** on 5th June, 2022 organized by **West Bengal Pollution Board** in which our students **stood 5th.**
- **New Cloth distribution to Orphanage for Durga Puja on 23.09.2022:** New clothes, stationeries, groceries and fruits were distributed to the 50 children of the orphanage, Nalta Arindam Welfare Society, Dumdum by the NSS unit for the upcoming Puja with contributions by faculty members of the college.
- On 20.10.2022, the NSS Unit of Bethune College in collaboration with the NSS Unit of Vidyasagar Metropolitan College arranged a **Plog Run cum Awareness Rally around the historical sites located at the periphery of the two colleges** from 1:00 to 3:00 pm to celebrate Fit India Freedom Run under the theme **"Azadi ke 75 saal, fitness Rahe Bemisaal"**. The tagline of the program was **"Picking litter is good for the country's health, Jogging is good for your health."** 10 kg of non-biodegradable wastes were handed over to Kolkata Municipal Corporation at the end of the run.
- NSS volunteers participated in a **"Dengue Awareness Rally"** conducted by Calcutta University from Deshbandhu College to Basanti Devi College on 11.11.2022.
- **A weeklong NSS orientation program** was organized from 22.11.2022 to 25.11.2022 by the UG Sem3 and Sem5 NSS volunteers for **UG sem1 students.**
- **Human Rights Day** was celebrated on 10th December, 2022 with a poster presentation on the theme **"Right to life, right to smile"**.
- NSS Volunteers sold hand-painted earthen pots, bookmarks and plants to raise funds for social work and as a part of **"Green Initiative" in the college fest, Aalap 2022 on 21.12.2022**
- **On World AIDS Day, 2022,** an **AIDS awareness rally** was jointly organised with **K K Chatterjee Memorial Association on 1st December, 2022 around Ramdulal and Beadon Street.** A street play on AIDS Awareness was also performed by the NSS volunteers in front of the college.
- A health check-up camp was organised by **the NSS Unit in collaboration with DeSun**

Hospital Health Institute on 04.01.2023 as part of week-long Students' Week Celebrations. The medical facilities provided were: General and cardiac Doctor's consultation, BP check up, Blood Sugar random, Body weight, ECG and Eye Check up. A total of 110 persons including 87 students, 17 teaching and 16 non-teaching staff benefitted from the health camp.

- NSS Volunteer, SHRESHTHA DATTA was nominated from the college for the NSS State Award. She also attended the Pre Republic Day Camp at Calcutta University.

Career Counselling Cell:

During the session, several webinars were organised by the Career Counselling Cell for the benefit of the students. In collaboration with the PG departments of Botany and Bengali and UG departments of Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science, the Cell organised five webinars with former students of the college as resource persons, addressing the juniors of their departments about future prospects of their respective subjects. This led to a lively interaction between the present students and the alumni of the college. Neelanjana Basu of the Department of English conducted a Communicative English Workshop on 5th April 2022. Dr. Ravindhar Vadapalli, Professor, Presidency University, Bangalore addressed the students regarding "Prospect of Studying Higher Education in Private Universities in India" on 11th April 2022. TRUST CLUB Consultancy conducted a Pre-campus seminar on "Career Prospect in HR for Final Year UG & PG Students". In collaboration with the Women's Studies Centre, the Cell organised a webinar on "Gender Bias in the Workplace" on 27th April 2022. Representatives of JAMBOREE Education conducted a webinar on "How to Score 160+ in GRE". The Cell also organised another webinar on "A Guide to Success in Aptitude Tests of Competitive Examinations".

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

It is also worth mentioning that Tata Consultancy Services recognised Bethune College as a partner for TCS National Qualifier Test (TCS-NQT) for 2022-23.

COLLEGE EVENTS

ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

Annual prize distribution ceremony of Bethune college was held on March 5, 2022. Sri Satyam Chowdhury, Hon'ble Chancellor of Sister Nivedita University was the Chief Guest and Yashodhara Ray Chaudhuri, IA&AS, Principal Accountant General was the Guest of Honour. Pravrajika Somoprana Mataji, Assistant Secretary, Sister Nivedita Girls' School was the Special Guest. Principal Prof. Krishna Roy, some former principals and alumni were among the other distinguished guests. Dr Sunanda Ghosh was felicitated with the Kadambini Ganguly Memorial Award.

New Prizes introduced from this year

1. **Bijay Kumar Dutta Smriti Puraskar** - For literary ability (Dept of English or Bengali)
2. **Subrata Chattopadhyay Memorial Award** - Gold Medal for highest CGPA in Political Science Honours.
3. **Sayantani Adhikary Foundation Award** - Cash Prize for the best all rounder of the Dept of English (UG & PG) and Award for Inter-College Photography competition held during the College Fest Aalap.
4. **Sailesh Chandra Dasgupta Memorial Award** - Book Prize for the Highest CGPA in Physics Honours.
5. **Suprabha Sen Memorial Award** - Book Prize for Highest CGPA in Statistics Honours
6. **Tandra Gangopadhyay Memorial Silver Medal** for the second topper of B.A. Exam in Philosophy Honours

Republic Day & Independence Day

Independence Day and Republic Day were observed in the College premises on 15.8.22 and 26.1.2023. Students participated in march past and drill which was followed by a short cultural programme.

BETHUNE DAY

The birthday of JED Bethune was celebrated on 12th July 2022 commemorating Bethune's 175th year of arrival in India. The occasion was celebrated by the inauguration of Bethune's sculptural bust.

Bethune day and *Banomahotsab* was celebrated on 12th August, 2022. The day started with members of teaching and non teaching staff and 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 offer tributes. Next, a floral tribute was offered at Bethune's plaque in the college campus.

The bust of J. E. D Bethune was unveiled by students commemorating the 175th year of his arrival in India. An exhibition by the students on 'Flora and Fauna of Bethune College' was inaugurated by Smt. Sampa Das, an eminent handloom designer. Dr. Manju Chakraborty, alumna and former Head of Chemistry Department was felicitated. This was followed by a speech by Smt. Sampa Das and the Bethune Day lecture by Dr. Basabi Chakraborty, Faculty, Rabindra Bharati University.

Orientation Programme: The Orientation Programme for the newly admitted first semester students was held on 19th September 2022 at the Centenary Hall of the college.

Birth Anniversaries of Pt Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar and Sister Nivedita were celebrated in the college on 26th September 2022 and 28th October, 2022 respectively with floral tributes.

AALAP

After a forced hiatus of two years due to Covid, the annual cultural fest of the College was held on 21 December, 2022, offline. The Fest was officially inaugurated by the Officer-in-Charge, in the presence of two Special Guests – Mr. Gautam Chatterjee, Executive Engineer, PWD civil and Mr. Kanchan Karak, Assistant Engineer, PWD. In all, 17 events were held this year. Some new events were introduced this year like the Pride Event, Instrumentals, Movie Poster Redesigning and E-Vlogging. While all other events were competitions, the Pride event, a first of its kind in the long and illustrious history of Bethune College, was not a competition. The objective of the event was to provide a safe and open space for individuals across the gender spectrum to express themselves in any manner they chose. There were 28 stalls that put up a variety of things for sale. Aalap ended with a band performance by Distorted Chromosomes featuring renowned vocal artist Sidhu, of Cactus fame.

ALUMNI

The Alumni Reunion of Bethune College Sammilani was held on 26th March, 2022.

A book on the life and times of our illustrious alumni **Smt Kadambini Ganguly**, titled *Prathama* was formally released on 16.6.2022. A painting of Smt Kadambini Ganguly was also unveiled on the occasion.

Mrinalini Emmerson Memorial Lecture was held on 3.9.2022 delivered by Professor Krishna Roy.

A documentary on Natyacharcha of Bethune College Sammilani by Rangan Chakraborty was released.

Anandamela, a fair showcasing handmade sustainable items by alumni and present students was held on 27th August 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.

Several teachers are enrolled as PhD scholars in various universities.

We are proud to state that Sri Sumanta Mukhopadhyay, Associate Professor of PG Dept of Bengali was honoured **with the Sudhindranath Dutta Smriti Puroskar by Jonmodin Sahitya Patrika, on 21.12.2022**

Publications and Invited Lectures

Dr Smita Ray, Dr Sulakshana Karmakar, Dr Srirupa Banerjee, Dr Supriti Paul, Dr Sanjib Basu, Dr Rupa Pal, Dr Mandira Mitra, Dr Amrita Bagchi, Dr Suchandra Chowdhury, Dr Nilanjana Bagchi, Dr Debadeepa Banerjee, Dr Mohua Chatterjee, Smt Debanjana Basu, Dr Hiroj Kr Saha and Dr Dipyaman Pal, Dr Gopa Bhowmik, Dr Rakhi Paul, Sri Soumya Chakraborty have **published papers in reputed national and international journals.**

Dr Amrita Bagchi, Dept of History has authored a book titled Healthcare in Post-Independence India; Kolkata and the Crisis of Private Health Care Services published by **Routledge. Environmental.**

Dr. Dipyaman Pal, Dept of Economics has authored a book titled **Sustainability, Growth Trajectory and Gender: Contemporary Issues of Developing Economies** published by Emerald Publishing, UK in 2022.

Dr Kanya Sengupta, Department of Philosophy has published a book Chomsky's Internalist View of Language ---A Critical Survey, Shakti Publications, Delhi, 2022.

Dr Mandira Mitra, Department of English, has published her book of poems, **Six Ways of Raising Daughters (Almora Kitabghar)** in May 2022.

Dr Sharmistha Niyogi, Department of Bengali, authored a book of essays on the poems of Jibanananda Das, named "Banalata Sen O Onyanyo", Bangiya Sahitya Samsad in February, 2022.

Dr Anindita Datta, Department of Bengali, translated Eugene Burdick and William Lederer's novel *The Ugly American* into Bengali as 'Kodorjo American.' It was published by Eklabya in February 2023.

Our teachers were invited as **resource persons** in various conferences and seminars. Some of them delivered invited talks. **Ms Sumita Mukhopadhyay** of Dept of Bengali, presented a paper titled "Muthoy Bhora Biswer Bhoy" in Nirikh, 3rd International literary Conference-2022, organized by **Rajshahi University, Rajshahi, Bangladesh** on 09-10 November, 2022. **Dr Nilanjana Bagchi** delivered a series of lectures on Organizational Behaviour at St Xavier's College in December, 2022. She also delivered a lecture on Sexual Abuse at East Calcutta Girls' College on January 5, 2023. **Dr Supriti Paul** delivered a lecture on "Carbon Capture Storage and Utilization (CCUS)" at a Two Day International Seminar on Academics-Industry Linkages: Opportunities and Challenges

(Interdisciplinary Approach) on 4th & 5th January, 2023 organised jointly by Department of Chemistry, Bhairab Ganguly College and Royal Society of Chemistry, London-Eastern India Section. **Dr. Ranjana Sharma**, Dept of Hindi was the Resource Person at Central Translation Bureau, Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, where she spoke on “Anuwad Aur Anuwad ki Prakriya” on 23.11.2022. **Dr Piyali Gupta**, Dept of English delivered the Jaba Chatterjee Memorial Lecture on Women’s Autobiographies at S A Jaipuria College on 2nd December, 2022 and another lecture on Modernism in the Dept of English, Heritage College on 23rd December, 2022.

Research Projects:

Dr. Dipyaman Pal (Economics) has an ongoing research project titled ‘Internet Usage, Gender Differences and Academic Achievements of Higher Education Students: A Study in some Districts of West Bengal’. Dr. Paramita Majumder (Chemistry) is working on a R & D Project funded by WBDST titled “Study of Some Transition Metal Complexes with New Pincer Ligands: Synthesis, Characterization and Reactivity”.

In keeping with the service rules, there have been new appointments and retirements. **Dr Krishna Roy**, Professor & Former Principal of the college, retired from service in August 2022. **Dr Pratap Ch Ray**, Professor, Department of Mathematics, retired from service on 31st January, 2023. **Dr. Debalina Banerjee**, Associate Professor, Department of English retired in July 2022. Among the non teaching staff members, Head Clerk, Sri Atanu Mukherjee retired from service in January, '23.

We mourn the loss of Bethune College alumni Meenakshi Chatterjee, Mahua Ghosh, Fullora Sarkar, Eva Dey, Arati Majumdar, Kabita Mondal and Sabita Dey.

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.