

## **Annual Report of Bethune College (2023- 2024)**

**12.2.2023-9.3.2024**

With great pleasure, we present a brief report of the activities and achievements of the College during the session 2023-24. Established in 1879, Bethune College, affiliated to University of Calcutta, empowers students to become responsible citizens, who can go beyond academic degrees to make lasting contributions to society.

We are extremely happy and proud to state that the Peer Team from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) visited Bethune College for the 3rd Cycle assessment on March 16-17, 2023 and after thorough assessment and evaluation we were awarded **an A+ grade, on March, 21**. The NAAC team highlighted several strengths of Bethune College, including the close bond between teachers and students, an active alumni network, green campus initiatives, financial support programmes for students and the rich college archive. While appreciating the college's efforts, the peer team provided constructive feedback for further improvement. The college has been working on the recommendations for the benefit of students.

We are also happy to announce that we have secured **78<sup>th</sup> rank nationally in the College Category in the assessment by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (MHRD)** in 2023. Bethune College has participated in the NIRF rankings since 2019 and we have always featured in the top 100 colleges of the country. The college was chosen to host the State Level Workshop on NIRF Ranking Preparation at the College Level organised by the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal on 13th September, 2023, where 121 participants from various colleges in and around Kolkata participated.

With a view towards sharing resources in an educational ecosystem, the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal has introduced the project 'Hubs of Learning through cluster approach' consisting of Schools and Higher Education Institutions' with horizontal and vertical integration. Bethune College has been selected as the Hub college in North Kolkata with 6 spoke colleges. A leadership workshop for HOIs of cluster schools and colleges, held at IIM, Joka was attended on 16th and 17th February. The college will organise a seminar on Summer Internship included in the CCF (2023) on April 1st, 2024 in which all spoke colleges have been invited.

Keeping in mind the recommendations of the NAAC Peer Team three new certificate courses were introduced in the last session. The Art & Craft Club, under Students' Activity Cell, launched a **Thirty-hour Certificate Course on Art & Craft** in collaboration with **PIDILITE Industries Limited**. This course for UG Semester 1 & 2 students which is free of cost encourages entrepreneurial skills in students. An agreement has been signed by the authorities concerned and this year 60 students have enrolled for the course. The Career Counselling Cell of the college started a **Thirty-**

**hour Communicative English Course** for final year UG and PG students which is also free of cost. Around 80 students have enrolled for this course. The course has been initiated keeping in mind employability options for students and enhancing professional readiness skills.

On 03.05.2023 an agreement was signed between the NSS Units of Women's Christian College, Kolkata and Bethune College,

Kolkata to organize a 30 Hour Certificate Course in "Handicraft and Art Work" for the session 2022-23. The NSS Volunteers of the two colleges are eligible for the course. The focus of the course is on skill development and internship opportunities.

The college hostel which has been operational since November, 2022 now has around 85 boarders. In the last session, a bus service was started by the Higher Education Department to and from the hostel and college for the convenience of students. A net has been set up in the hostel courtyard for students' safety. Pipeline Gas Service has been installed in the Hostel. The college canteen has been renovated. A Digital board for measuring pollution level in the adjoining areas is being set up in the college campus by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board.

The most important stakeholders, our **students**, are worthy inheritors of the rich legacy of this college. A painting of Chandramukhi Basu, one of the first two graduates and first Principal of Bethune College, by Sri Nirmalendu Mandal, was presented to the college by three illustrious former Principals, Prof. (Dr.) Pushpa Mishra, Prof.(Dr.) Manimala Das and Prof.(Dr.) Mamata Ray on 9th October, 2023.

The student strength this session combining the undergraduate and postgraduate streams is 1217. Our students have performed consistently well in all university examinations.

In the last session, **215** UG students secured CGPA over 6 in Humanities & Social Sciences and **133** UG students secured CGPA over 7 in Science subjects. Special mention must be made of 06 students in Humanities and Social Sciences who secured CGPA over 8 (02 from Philosophy, 02 from Psychology and 02 from Sanskrit). There were 06 students in Science securing CGPA above 9 (2 from Statistics, 02 from Mathematics and 01 from Botany and Zoology each).

PG results were equally good with as many as 44 students securing CGPA over 6 in their final semester.

**Prestigious scholarships:** We are glad that **10 students** in our Science departments are **INSPIRE scholars** [3(Physics)+ 4 (Maths) + 1(Statistics)+ 2 (Chemistry)].

The college encourages and motivates students to participate in various events and competitions outside college and contribute to social causes. Some of the remarkable achievements of our students must be mentioned here.

- **A team of UG1 students from the Botany Department** (Sakshi Mishra, Arpita Mishra, Poulomi Dey, Soumili Mitra Roy, Sukarna Deb, Anjali Kumari, Tamori Jha and Maitreyee Deb) became the Champion of the Wetland Conservation Model Exhibition Competition organized by West Bengal Pollution Control Board at Nalban Auditorium on 25th January, 2024.
- **Ritwika Mitra, Swagata Singha and Sneha Bhattacharya** (PG Sem-3 Botany) presented a poster on "An overview of Neuroendocrine Tumours" at the State Level Seminar on World Cancer Day, Impact of Cancer in Life: an insight into Research and Awareness, THK JAIN COLLEGE, on 04.10.2023.
- **The students of the English department** organised the first Reunion of the Department on 02.09.2023. They performed an adaptation of Dead Poets' Society which was written and directed by them.
- **Roopsa Sanyal, UG Sem6 of the English department** had her poem published in The Telegraph: Edugraph representing Bethune College on the occasion of National Poetry Month in April, 2023.
- **Shuktika Mazumder** (UG Sem 6) of the English department won the First Prize in the Creative Writing Competition at Sanskriti, the fest organised by Jadavpur University in April, 2023.
- **Sampurnaa Pramanik** (UG Sem 6) of the English department won the 2nd prize in Solo Eastern Singing Competition at the Calcutta Institute of Engineering & Management ( CIEM CELCIUS) on 07/04/2023.
- **Sayantika Banerjee**, UG Sem1, English Department qualified from the District to the State level in a Debate competition "Speak for India" organised by **The Telegraph, ABP Ananda, Anandabazar Patrika and Federal Bank**. She won the Third Prize in the Extempore Competition organised on National Science Day on 28.2.2024, Bethune College in collaboration with Indian National Sciences Academy (INSA), Kolkata Chapter, The National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI), Kolkata Chapter and The People's Association for Science and Environment (PASE.)She also came first in the Story Writing Competition organized by "Antarik", an online magazine. Sayantika has also published poems titled 'Abyay' in *The Prottiyabartan Sharod Sankhya* and 'Ami o Kolkata' in *Chakrabuhya* (Hatekhori Publications).
- **Prajukta Pal**, UG Sem1, English department won the 3rd prize at "Battle of Bookworms" at Eutopia, University of Management and Engineering, 27th and 28th of January, 2024.

- **Chandrima Ghosh**, UG Sem1, English department has several prizes to her credit. She won 1st position in Byte Tales (Micro Fiction) Competition at eXabyte 2024, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata (12.02.2024) and 1st runner up in quiz Competition at Xavrang'24, St. Xavier's University (22.01.2024). She secured 1st position in Story Writing Competition, 2nd position in Recitation Competition, 2nd position in Quiz Competition, 3rd position in Elocution Competition, 3rd position in Battle of Bookworms (Quiz Competition) at Eutopia, UEM, Kolkata (28.01.2024).
- **Chandrima Ghosh and Prajukta Pal**, students of UG1 English, won the 2nd Prize in **Inter College Debate Competition at Lady Brabourne College** on 19.12.2023.
- **Manjima Nandy, UG 1, Dept of English** won 1st Prize in Extempore Competition organised on National Science Day on 28.2.2024, Bethune College in collaboration with Indian National Sciences Academy (INSA), Kolkata Chapter, The National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI), Kolkata Chapter and The People's Association for Science and Environment (PASE.)
- **Debalina Kundu, Triyasa Singha, Ishika Chakraborty and Brishti Bauri** from the Departments of English, Statistics and Mathematics performed in the 11th International Kolkata Art Festival at the Indian Museum, Dec 14-17, 2023.
- **Lakhi Kumari Shaw**, UG6, Hindi Dept, attended a National Level Corps, 2 Bengal Girls Battalion NCC Camp from 31.3.2023 to 07.04.2023.
- **Sanjana Jaiswal**, UG 1 Hindi Dept, achieved 2nd position in Recitation, at Shri Shikshayatan College on occasion of Hindi Diwas. She also ranked 3rd in the Recitation organization by Sanskritik Punarnirman Mission, Kolkata 2023-24. She was also awarded the **Yuva Shikhar Samman** under Naihati Drama Group organization by Sanskritik Punarnirman Mission, Kolkata 2023-24.
- **Anindita Biswas**, UG 5, Political Science Department has received a Certificate of Appreciation for participating in Special Disaster Response & Self Defense Training Programme conducted by 2nd Battalion National Disaster Response Force & World Martial Arts Committee, India in collaboration with NSS, Jadavpur University in April, 2023.
- **Snigdha Makharia**, UG3, Physics Department won First prize in the event, "Whispers of the Past"; which was a blog writing contest, hosted by Loreto College, Kolkata during their fest, Samagam 2023. She also participated in the International essay contest 2023, organised by GOI peace foundation, Japan.
- **Arpita Ghosh & Sneha Seal** (UG Sem 1) of Computer Science department came 1st in a digital circuit design competition in Exabyte (tech fest), organised by St. Xavier's College on 16.02.2024

- **Sharanya Ray & Srija Pathak** (UG Sem 3) of Botany department came 1st in the RBI Museum inter college quiz on 18.05.2023.
- **Pritha Mukhopadhyay, Sayantani Pal, and Srija Chatterjee**, Sem 3, Chemistry Dept, won 2nd prize in Inter-College Oral presentation competition in Chem Voice '23 organized by Department of Chemistry, The Bhawanipur Education Society College on 21st December 2023
- **Srija Mukherjee, Annapoorna Sarker, and Soumili Das, UG 1, Chemistry** won the 1st prize in poster Competition in the National Science Day Celebration Seminar organised by Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Kolkata Chapter, The National Academy of Science India(NASI) Kolkata Chapter and The People's Association for Science and Environment (PASE) on 28/02/2024 at Bethune College.

**Extension Activities by students:** Present and ex-students of the Department of **English** went on a day-long visit to “Ashiyana Orphanage” at Madhyamgram and brightened up the day of the children with essentials and gifts on Christmas Eve, 2023.

As part of experiential learning, several departments organised **educational excursions and field trips**.

The **Department of Botany** conducted educational tours as part of UG & PG curriculum to the Plant Tissue Culture facility of Department of Botany, RKMVC, AJC Bose Botanical Garden, Phulia, the Red Cow Factory, Jaugram and Panchalingeswar and adjoining areas.

**Bengali Department** organised an educational tour to Muruguma and Ajodhya Hills, Purulia with UG-(6 th Sem,2023) students on 18.02.23-21.02.23.

PG4 and UG6 students of the Department of **Psychology** participated in a two day excursion at Shantiniketan on 06.04.2023 and 07.04.2023. A group of 18 PG 4th and 2nd semester students (specialization in Organizational and Environmental Psychology) participated in an Industry visit to Thermal Associate Pvt. Ltd. in Serampore on 30.5.2023.

The department of **Zoology** organised an excursion to Chandipur, Orissa for UG and PG students from 27.9. 23 to 30.9.23. Besides, an educational visit to CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (TRUE campus Saltlake) was organised on 30.03.2023. Like every year, a local excursion to the Indian Museum was conducted for the GE4 students on 9.4.2023. UG & PG students also participated in an educational tour to the Alipore Zoological Garden on 16.09.2023. The students studying under the new CCF curriculum were taken to Subhash Sarobar, Phoolbagan on an educational tour as part of their IDC paper.

The department of **History** conducted a visit to museum and heritage sites of Chandernagore and Serampore on 29.11.2023 as part of the curriculum.

Students of **Economics** went for an educational tour to the RBI museum.

**STUDENTS' WEEK:** As directed by the Government of West Bengal, the college celebrated Students' week from January 1- January 8, 2024 by organising different events such as:

1. Awareness Programme on Students' Welfare Schemes of the Government of West Bengal, on 2nd January, 2024.

2. Cultural Competitions (Song, Dance, Recitation, Creative Writing, on 3rd January, 2024 organised by NSS Unit and Students' Activity Cell.

3. Awareness Programme on Career Counselling and various facilities for students, on 4th January, 2024.

4. Awareness Programme and Psychological Counselling on 5th January, 2024.

5. Health Check up Camp for students by NSS Unit (Red Ribbon Activity) on 6th January, 2024.

6. Parents' Teachers' Meeting organised online on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2024

The programme ended with the students' meeting with the Honourable, Chief Minister on 8th January, 2024.

### **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 29 applications of K2 scholarships.

243 fresh applications for **Swami Vivekananda Merit cum Means Scholarship** were forwarded and 229 more were renewed during this session. Besides applications for **Aikyashree** [18 (new), 11(renewed)], **OASIS scholarship** (61 students) have been processed. **4 new and 11 renewal applications have been processed** under National Scholarship Portal

**Student Aid:** Financially weaker students who fulfil the criterion for free studentship set by the Higher Education Department, Government of West Bengal receive financial help from the Student Aid Fund run exclusively by the teachers and different Endowment Funds. In the previous session, 67 undergraduate and 5 postgraduate students benefitted from the college aid fund.

**National Science Day** was observed on 28th February, 2024 in collaboration with Indian National Sciences Academy (INSA), the National Academy of Science, India (NASI) and the People's Association for Science and Environment (PASE).

(It began with the address of Dr. Chitra Mandal, Distinguished Fellow, Honorary visiting Professor, Diamond Harbour Women's University, Advisor, INSA-Kolkata Chapter. It was followed by a lecture by Dr. Amit Ghosh, Honorary Scientist, Vice-President (Publication), Indian National Science Academy, National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (ICMR), Advisor, INSA-Kolkata. The first theme lecture was delivered by Dr. Hemanta K. Majumder, NASI- Senior Scientist Platinum Jubilee Fellow, CSIR-IICB, Convener, INSA-Kolkata chapter. The Second theme Lecture was delivered by Dr. Asoke Kanti Sanyal, President, PASE.) Apart from lectures delivered by eminent scientists, there was a poster, extempore and quiz competition for the students.

The NSS Unit and Students' Activity Cell of Bethune College organised a Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Programme (SVEEP) in collaboration with Election Commission of India (Shyampurkur AC) for UG Semester I students of the college on 6th March, 2024. The programme included live demonstration of the electoral process with an EVM machine and a street play for creating awareness.

#### **The college organises several seminars and workshops to enhance the teaching learning process.**

The IQAC, Bethune College in collaboration with various departments organised seminars on diverse subjects. Some of the IQAC seminars include the 'NEP Seminar on Contextualizing National Education Policy (NEP)' on 23.2.2023; 'New Education Policy and its Implementation in Undergraduate Colleges' on 12.7.2023 organized by Dept. of Economics and IQAC, Bethune College and a Seminar on Research Opportunities and Higher Studies in USA- Fulbright Nehru Fellowships Programme (For Faculty & Research Scholars) on 05.12.2023 organized in collaboration with the Career Counselling Cell.

**The PG Department of Bengali** organised a talk on Arittir Sat Sotero delivered by Samya Karfa, Noted Elocutionist on 15.12.23. The department also organised "Banglar Boithok" in which Dr. Farzana Siddika, Head of Department, Sylhet University, Bangladesh delivered her lecture "Begam Rokeya : Ek Byatikromi Adhyay" on 16.1.2024.

**The PG Department of English** organised a seminar on "Poetry in Exile" on 25.07.2023 with Tenzin Tsundue, poet and activist as the resource person. The department also organised **The First Prof. Shanta Mahalanobis Memorial Lecture- "Ecofeminism and Sustainability: The Ongoing Debates"** delivered by **Professor Krishna Sen**, Professor & former Head, Dept of English, University of Calcutta on 22.09.2023. The department also organised lectures on "How Instagram is influencing the Visual Culture of Food: A Theory of Long Term Cultural Change" on 12.10.23 by

Prof. Krishnendu Ray, Professor, Dept of Nutrition and Food Studies, New York University and “Arnold’s *Culture and Anarchy*” by Prof. Nandini Bhattacharya, Professor, University of Burdwan on 31/1/2024.

**The PG Department of Psychology** organised a talk “In Search of Wellbeing” on 09.12.2023 in collaboration with the Sayantani Adhikary Foundation in which Dr. Ushri Banerjee, Faculty, Department of Applied Psychology delivered a lecture on Borderline Personality Disorders.

**The Department of Physics** organised the 12th Chameli Basu Memorial Lecture on 29/04/2023 in which Prof. Manimala Das, Former Principal, Bethune College spoke on “Women Scientists of India.” The department also organised the Nandini Raha Memorial Experimental Workshop In Physics, 2023 on 6-7 October, 2023 in which members of IAPT participated with in-house teachers of Bethune College. The 8th Ananta Kumar Sarker & Snehalata Sarker Memorial Seminar on “The Advancement of The Knowledge in Physics” was organised on 16/12/23 in which Prof. Gautam Gangopadhyay, Professor of Physics, University of Calcutta spoke on “C.V.Raman in Kolkata” and Dr. Jolly Dhar , Group Director, Microwave Sensors Receiver Group, Indian Space Research Organisation spoke on “Radar Sensors for Civilian and Lunar Mission.”

The **Department of Zoology** organised a seminar on “How to be a part of wildlife, conservation and environmental issues: a general interaction” delivered by Dr. Kuladeep Roy, Assistant Manager, WWF-India, West Bengal State Office on 30.01.2024. A career counseling seminar entitled “Scopes in Modern Research in Zoology” was conducted in collaboration with IQAC and Career Counseling Cell on 23, May 2023.

**Women’s History Conclave** in collaboration with the **Department of History**, Bethune College organised the third Uttara Chakraborty Memorial Lecture on Archives and Remnants: Indian People’s Theatre Association and its Legacy on 4th January 2024, with Dr. Rongili Biswas, Associate Professor of Economics, Barasat Government College, as the resource person. The Department also organised a talk on ‘Renaissance Art’ by Sri Sougata Das, Assistant Professor, Dept. of the History of Art; Government College of Art & Craft, Kolkata on 8th December 2023. A talk on Museum & Archive was organised on 12 October 2023 with Dr. Piyashi Bharasa, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Museology, University of Calcutta as resource person.

**The Department of Philosophy** organised a talk on “Concept of Peace: An Overview” on the newly introduced IDC course on 03.10.2023. The Resource person was Dr. Varbi Roy, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Scottish Church College.

**The Department of Sanskrit** organised a 5 days Offline & Online Special Lecture Series on “Career Opportunities for Sanskrit Learners” in collaboration with Lalbaba College during 15-19 May, 2023.



**The Department of Statistics** organised an invited lecture on Two surprises in probability theory with Prof. Arnab Chakraborty, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata as resource person on 8.5.2023.

The department of **Mathematics** celebrated the International Day for Mathematics and PI DAY on 14.03.2023 with a DBT sponsored departmental seminar, where the retired and present faculty members were the resource persons.

The PG department of **Botany** organised a number of departmental seminars sponsored by DBT Star scheme. A Workshop on Instrumentation was conducted by the faculty members of the department to celebrate National Science Day on 28th February, 2023. Dr. Ayan Das, Assistant Professor, Presidency University spoke on Biosafety assessment of Genetically Modified Crops in a departmental seminar organised on 29.03.2023. Dr. Anirban Kundu, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, RKMVC College was the resource person for the One Day Workshop and FDP on Bioinformatics 30.03.2023. **A Career counseling webinar on “Our students: scaling new heights” was also conducted in collaboration with the career counseling cell on 30.05.2023.**

The department of **Computer Science** organised a webinar titled “Pathways to a Career in Cyber Security” in collaboration with the Career Counselling Cell on 14.05.2023 where two successful ex-students of the college interacted with the present students.

The department of **Chemistry** organised several workshops and seminars under the DBT Star College Scheme with the college faculty members as the resource persons:- i) One-Day Students’ Workshop on Separation of Binary Mixture of Solid Organic Compounds and Identification of the Components organised on 08/02/2023 ii) Two-Day Students’ Workshop on Formation of Ag Nanoparticles and Its Characterization Using Neem Leaf 13/02/2023 and 15/02/23 iii. The department also organised a One-Day National Seminar on “Sustainable Energy In Today’s World” on 20/02/2023 where Prof. Satishchandra B. Ogale And Abhik Banerjee of TCG CREST were the resource persons.

**Human Rights Cell** in collaboration with Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Bethune College organized a special lecture on Domestic Violence on 16 September 2023. The speaker was Smt. Suparna Chakraborty, District Protection Officer under PWDV Act 2005.

The Cell in collaboration with NSS unit and IQAC organized Inter-College Street-Play Competition on 6th December 2023 on “Dignity, Freedom and Justice for all”.

The Cell in collaboration with the Ethics & Value Education Committee and IQAC organized a seminar on ‘Values of Human Rights in Cinema’ on 17th January 2024. The Resource Person was noted filmmaker and theatre personality Shri Ashoke Viswanathan.

The fifth issue of the online bulletin ‘Jagriti’ (Awakening) presented by Human Rights Cell, Bethune College was uploaded on Bethune website on 8 th April, 2023. The title of this issue was Natural

Calamities and Human Rights. Students of the Department of History, Botany, Chemistry and Computer Science contributed to the volume.

**The Women's Studies Centre** of the college also organised several activities round the year. To commemorate International Women's Day, 2024, the Centre in collaboration with Institute of Sleep Sciences organized an Awareness Camp on "Importance of Sleep for Women" on 7.3.2024. Reputed Gynaecologist Dr Indrani Lodh, Pulmonologist Dr Sivaesmi Unnithan, Psychiatrist Dr Bhargavi Chatterjee, Dr Arpita Halder, Associate Professor, Dept of Anatomy, and Sri Somnath Maity, Institute of Sleep Sciences were the resource persons.

The Centre in collaboration with the Women's Studies Department organized a One-day International Seminar on 08.02.2024 (Thursday) in which distinguished Professor Emerita, reputed scholar and historian, Geraldine Forbes delivered an insightful and engaging lecture on 'In Search of Elokeshi: Unravelling the Tarakeshwar Murder Case of 1873.'

The Centre in collaboration with the Department of Women's Studies organised an Awareness Programme on Cyber Security on 15.12.2023. The resource person was Sri Subhendu Chakraborty, Member and Technical Expert, Cyber Security Centre of Excellence, Department of IT and Electronics, Government of West Bengal.

To mark International Women's Day on 8.3.2023, posters made by students on women's issues were displayed in different parts of the college.

A 30 Hour-Certificate Course on **Ethics & Value Education**, for the undergraduate students of Semester 1 and 2 of Bethune College has been conducted since 2020, for creating awareness about social responsibilities and moral values, and practical applications of ethics in our everyday life.

A series of lectures and workshops were organised by the Ethics & Values Education Committee, including a day long Yoga workshop and Lectures on varied topics like Women's education, Gandhian Morality, Human Rights and Laboratory Ethics. The course was formally completed with Online MCQ test 8th October, 2023. 309 students out of an enrolment of 335 students appeared for the exam completing the course.

The Inaugural lecture of the session 2023-24, was delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Mamata Ray Chaudhuri, Former Principal, Bethune College, on 18th December, 2023. 391 students are enrolled this year. From 9-17th February, 2024, students, along with teachers, visited Raja Ram Mohan Roy Memorial museum situated in Rammohun Sarani as part 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.

The College **Library** has a rich collection of about 90, 238 books and journals. These include some rare and priceless books and journals. The Library also provides access to various scholarly journals through a subscription to Inflightnet. Recently the library has initiated the WEB-OPAC online catalogue browsing service, available through the institutional website.

- UG Admission for the session 2023-24 in 4-year B.A./ B.Sc. (with or without research) streams in the newly introduced CCF under the University of Calcutta were conducted online maintaining reservation criteria according to Government guidelines. A total number of **14,481** applications were received for **678** seats in 18 courses (B.A. – 09. B.Sc. – 09). Altogether **405** students completed their Registration process under the University. The entire process of Admission and Registration was conducted online.
- CAS files of 6 teachers (out of which 4 are for Associateship) have been processed in 2023-24 by the CAS Committee.
- At the administrative level, the non-teaching staff members offer unstinting support to meet the challenges of the college. **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.

**The Students' Activity Cell**, along with the various Clubs conducted many activities throughout the year. A Thirty-hour Debate Workshop was organised by the Debate Club of the college for the Kanyashree girl students of Hooghly District in collaboration with the Office of the District Magistrate & Collector, Hooghly District, Govt of West Bengal. An agreement was signed by the Officer-in-charge, Bethune College, and the District Magistrate, District of Hooghly. The workshops were conducted by Ms Sanjukta Roy, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Bethune College, and successfully completed by 40 students from 20 Government-run Girls' schools of District of Hooghly. This collaboration was a part of the Kanyashree-plus scheme of DPMU Hooghly who received Best District Award in this category on Kanyashree Dibas 14<sup>th</sup> August by Govt of West Bengal.

The Film & Drama Club under Students' Activity Cell organized a One-day Workshop on Introduction to Filmography on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Satyaki Roy, Professor, Department of Design & Media Technology Centre, IIT Kanpur. Almost 100 students attended this workshop.

Students of the Drama Club won the Second Prize at the Radioplay Competition organised by St Xavier's College, (Autonomous) Kolkata, held on 4th March, 2024.

**The Intra College Competitions** were organised by the Students' Activity Cell and Bethune College Students' Committee on 1-2 December 2023. In all, 21 competitions were held. The Department of English was declared the "Champion Department" at the **Intra College Competitions**.

The **Career Counselling Cell** works actively in providing job opportunities and new avenues for employment.

**Campus recruitment drive:** The Cell organised Campus recruitment drives from various renowned organisations like Capgemini, LT Mindtree and TCS. **6 students were selected for employment** (TCS- 05, LT Mindtree-01).

Since most of our students opt for higher studies, the Cell organised **eight subject-specific webinars/seminars** in collaboration with the PG departments of **Botany, Bengali and Zoology** and UG departments of **Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science, Sanskrit and Philosophy**, where successful former students of the college addressed the juniors of their departments about future prospects of higher studies. Our ex-student of the department of **Economics**, Manjima Samaddar, an entrepreneur and awardee of the Indian Chamber of Commerce addressed students of all departments on the topic "**Gateway to Indian Institute of Management**" on 02.05.23.

In a pre-campus Career Counselling Webinar, Ananya Chatterjee, Territory Manager, SBI Life addressed the students regarding "**Career Opportunities in SBI**" 28.02.23. Another pre-campus seminar was conducted by **TRUSTKLUB Consulting** on 08.08.23. A **Workshop on Relevant Skills for Industry 4.0** was organised in collaboration with Webel-Fujisoft-Vara Centre of Excellence, an initiative of the Department of Information Technology and Electronics, Government of West Bengal on 21.03.23, where Mr. Sanjay Lal spoke on "**Emerging Technologies Like Data Science, Cyber Security, Embedded Systems and Additive Manufacturing**". Around 100 students were sent for a training programme titled "**Future Skills Programme in West Bengal**" organised by the **Department of Higher Education**, Government of West Bengal, in collaboration with IBM SkillsBuild from 25.09.23- 28.09.23.

The importance of community service, through **NSS activities**, is impressed upon our students as it is our mission to impart holistic education. This year our achievements include:

**The selection of Dr Sritama Mukherjee, Programme Officer, NSS, Bethune College as an External Member of the NSS Advisory Board, University of Calcutta.**

1. NSS Volunteer **Ms. Shanmoyee Bhattacharjee** (UG Sem-4 History Department) participated in the Vivek Sanhati Utsav, State Level Celebration, 2023 at the West Bengal State University on 22.05.2023. **Dr. Sritama Mukherjee**, PO Bethune College NSS Unit acted as the contingent leader for Calcutta University for the above program.

2. NSS PO, **Dr. Sritama Mukherjee** attended the One Day National Level T.O.T. on Experiential Learning Program at New Delhi along with Four NSS Programme Officers from West Bengal organized by YAS Ministry and NSS India on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2023. She is presently acting as a Master Trainer for the same for the districts- Kolkata, Howrah, South 24 parganas, North 24 Parganas and Nadia

3. NSS Volunteers **Ms. Srijata Pramanik** and (UG Sem-3, English Department) and **Ms. Subheccha Sil** (UG Sem-3, Philosophy Department) participated in the Pre-RD Selection Camp for New Delhi at the Calcutta University on 26.09.2023

4. 4 NSS Volunteers- **Snigdhasree Manna, Saheli Chakraborty, Anindita Biswas and Baishali Biswas** participated in the Anti-Drug and No Tobacco Rally at Raj Bhavan on Nov 23, 2023

5. NSS Volunteer **Ms. Nilakhi Paul** (UG Sem-3, Philosophy Department) participated in the NSS Adventure camp at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Manali from 25.11.2023 to 04.12.2023.

6. NSS Volunteer **Ms. Subheccha Sil** (UG Sem-3, Philosophy Department) participated in the West Bengal State NSS Republic Day Parade Camp sponsored by Department of Higher Education from 5<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Saltlake, Kolkata. She also participated in the Republic Day parade at Red Road on 26th January, 2024.

7. NSS PO, **Dr. Sritama Mukherjee** attended a One Day TOT for Red Ribbon Club Program organised at Swasthya Bhawan on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

NSS Volunteers and members were also involved in yearlong activities.

**NSS Special Camp** was organized from 23.03.2023 to 29.03.2023 at the adopted slum Goabagan. The program was inaugurated by the Guest of Honour, Mr. Vinay Kumar, Regional Director, NSS Kolkata. Several programmes on Mental Health Awareness, Literacy, Happy Periods, Skill Development, non-fire cooking, Sanitation were conducted. A cultural program for the slum people was also organised. An eye Check up camp was organized for the elderly in collaboration with Hindol and Sushrut. Six slum people were diagnosed with cataract during the special camp and two of them were operated on 30.03.2023. NSS volunteers also created a library for the school going children at the slum.

Among the regular activities organised by the NSS Unit, there are several outreach programmes:

1. 35 NSS Volunteers participated in the Self defence training program organized by World Martial Arts Committee, India in collaboration with NSS Unit, Jadavpur University on 24.04.2023.
2. Old clothes were distributed to the slum dwellers of Bidhan Sarani on 25.07.2023 by the Volunteers and teacher members of Bethune College NSS Unit.
3. The NSS Units of Bethune College and Vidyasagar College jointly organized an Outreach Plantation Program in collaboration with Green Circle of India at Rammohun Museum on 8.9.2023. 11 trees like Mahogani, Bakul, Mogra, Karaunj, Boxbadam, Kathbadam, Gulmohar, Hibiscus were planted.
4. **NSS Day** was celebrated through a cleanliness drive and plantation program on 23.09.2023 in the adopted slum Gobagan. 10 Hibiscus saplings and one mogra sapling were planted. Phenyls were donated for the community bathrooms of the slum.
5. A Saree Fair was held on 10.10.2023 in the adopted slum Goabagan before Durga Puja. Sarees in good condition were donated by the faculty members of the college.
6. New clothes were donated to the 56 children of Nalta Arindam Welfare Society for the upcoming Durga Puja on 12.10.23. Clothes were donated by the faculty members of the college. Books and soft toys collected by the volunteers throughout the year were also donated. The volunteers and teachers spent an afternoon with them and participated in the cultural program by the orphanage children
7. Two volunteers Srijata Pramanik and Barnali Biswas and PO participated in the 'Khadi Mahotsav' rally and seminar organized by CU and KVIC from University campus to Scottish Church College on 16.10.2023.
8. The NSS Unit of Bethune College visited Keertika Protection Home, a unit of the Rescue and Relief Foundation on 17.10.2023. The volunteers and teachers spent an afternoon with the children who are mostly rescued from trafficking. Copies, pens, crayons, fruits and chocolates were distributed among the children. The children also exhibited their crafts, drawings and handmade jewellery.
9. 5 volunteers participated in the Constitution Day program at Raj Bhavan on 26th November, 2023.
10. NSS Volunteer, Neha Acharya has taken an initiative to celebrate Christmas with the slum children of Bagbazar and Ahiritola Ghat by providing them breakfast, cakes, fruits, chocolates and caps. Bethune College NSS Unit extended their helping hand by providing the entire amount they have raised by selling eco-friendly handicrafts from the fest stall

11. NSS Volunteers celebrated Youth Day by participating in the rally organized by Ramakrishna Mission and Vivekananda's Ancestral House and Cultural Center on 12.01.2024.

The NSS Unit organised several workshops and awareness programmes. Some of them include:

1. Awareness session on "Blood disorders and need for lifesavers" on World Thalassemia Day: NSS Volunteers and teachers of the Bethune College registered as potent stem cell donors on "World Thalessemia Day", 8th May, 2023

2. International Yoga Day, 2023 was observed by NSS Volunteers on 21.06.2023.

3. Awareness session on "Personality Development, Grooming, Hygiene, body language and communication" was jointly organised with Brand touch and Analytics for the students of the college on 30.06.2023.

4. Bethune College, Kolkata observed World Environment Day on 5.6.23 with an awareness drive on "Beat plastic pollution", plantation, student presentations and Quiz competition. A special drive called "Switch off electricity drive" was conducted by the students, teaching and non- teaching staff from 8 to 8:05 pm to save electricity.

5. Banamahotsav was celebrated by Bethune College NSS Unit in collaboration with the Green Initiative committee on 17th and 18th July, 2023 with plantation drives at the hostel and college premises and donation of saplings to the students, teaching and non-teaching staff. 100 saplings were donated by the Forest department of W.B.

6. An awareness drive on vector-borne diseases was organized by Bethune College NSS Unit on 11.08.2023 and 4.9.2023 according to the directives of Govt. of West Bengal. Stagnant water removal, followed by bleaching powder spreading, campaigning and poster distribution to the departments.

7. Bethune College NSS Unit celebrated National Sports Day on 29.08.2023 with Fit India Pledge and a Badminton match.

8. On 27.09.2023 an Orientation program was arranged for the NSS Volunteers. Dr. Partha Karmakar, Deputy Secretary, WBBPE and Ex-Program Officer, Bethune College NSS Unit was the speaker.

9. The NSS Unit kept 2 boxes named as 'Use me for social work' in the Arts and Science libraries on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 to encourage student participation in social work.

10. An Awareness Program was arranged in collaboration with the NSS Unit of Surendranath College and SAATHII, Kolkata from 2pm-3:30 pm to celebrate World AIDS Day. A Human chain was formed by the volunteers of both the colleges to take pledge to fight against AIDS.

11. NSS Volunteers of Bethune College prepared and sold plants and gift items made up of waste and eco-friendly materials at the Fest Stall of the College on 22.12.23 under the theme “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle” and to raise funds for Social Work.

12. Students' Health Camp organized on 6.1.24 in collaboration with Hindol Welfare Organization in the College Campus to observe Students' Week. About 100 students participated.

13. Observance of Youth Week, 2024: NSS Volunteers collected old winter clothes and distributed them among the slum people of Ahiritola Ghat to "Reduce, Recycle and Reuse" on 13.01.2024. An Awareness Program on 'Menstrual hygiene and PCOD' was organized in collaboration with Albert David and Students' Activity Cell, by Dr. Shabana Roze Chowdhury, Gynecologist and Obstetrician on 16.01.2020. This was followed by a Millet Awareness Program by Dr. Seemanti Ghosh, HoD, Department of Botany, Bethune College

14. The NSS Unit organized a special event of 50m race for the children of the adopted slum Goabagan in the college Annual Sports on 20.01.2024.

### **Bratachari Certificate Course**

Inaugural session of the Bratachari Certificate Course, 2023-24 was organized in collaboration with Bengal Bratachari Society at Bethune College on 19.12.2023. Lectures were followed by interactive sessions, music and dance classes for the volunteers. Certificates were distributed to the volunteers of 2022-23 session. UG 3 students enrolled in the course, attend regular classes.

### **Collaboration with Love Without Boundaries Foundation**

Bethune College NSS UNIT signed a collaboration with Love Without Boundaries Foundation on 11.10.2023 to work for the society. Presently the Unit is running a Youth for kids project on “Health and Hygiene” .

#### **Programs:**

1. On 8th November, 2023 four Y4K Volunteers donated cotton clothes to 18 cancer affected children of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata
2. Y4K volunteers conducted a survey on 'Health and Hygiene' of the children (3-15yrs) in the adopted slum Gobagan on 28th- 29th Nov, 23.

**Many college events were organised in the last session.**



- **The Annual prize distribution ceremony** of Bethune college was held on February 11, 2023. Dr Madhumita Manna, ADPI. Higher Education Department, Government of West Bengal was the Special Guest and Professor Samaresh Bhattacharya, Department of Chemistry, Jadavpur University and Smt Jayati Chakraborty, Eminent Vocal Artist were Distinguished Guests. Some former principals and alumni were among the other guests. Padma Shri Professor Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay was felicitated with the Kadambini Ganguly Memorial Award. Professor Neena Gupta, eminent mathematician and alumna of the college was awarded the Bethune Prize.
- **Independence Day** and **Republic Day** were observed in the College premises on 15.8.23 and 26.1.2024. Students participated in march past and drill followed by a short cultural programme.
- **Rabindra Jayanti** was celebrated on 10th May, 2023.
- **Birthday of JED Bethune** was celebrated on 12th July, 2023 with a cake cutting ceremony. Former students of the college who are now teachers, shared their memories of their student days.
- **Bethune Day and Banomahotsav** programme was held on 12.08.2023. The programme began with paying homage to John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune's tomb at the Lower Circular Road Cemetery in the morning. It was followed by paying floral tributes to Bethune's bust at Bethune Collegiate School and the busts of Bethune, Vidyasagar and Sister Nivedita at Bethune College. Students' exhibition was inaugurated by honourable guest Dr. Jayeeta Datta, Associate Professor of Bengali, Hooghly Mohsin College. The programme began with felicitation of special guests, Prof Emerita (Dr.) Supriya Chaudhuri and Dr. Jayeeta Datta, lighting of the lamp, inaugural song, floral tribute to JED Bethune's portrait, and planting of saplings. The college magazine Adiganta dedicated to Sri Aurobindo and Sarala Devi Chaudhurani, was formally inaugurated by the guests of honour. **The Bethune Day lecture was delivered by the eminent educationist Professor Emerita of the Department of English, Jadavpur University, Prof.(Dr.)Supriya Chaudhuri. The title of her lecture was "Not at Home Anywhere: Space, Place, and Gender"**. Dr. Jayeeta Datta, Associate Professor of Bengali, Hooghly Mohsin College, delivered the next lecture on 19th Century womanhood, titled **১৯শ শতাব্দীর মহিলাত্ব**, **১৯শ শতাব্দীর মহিলাত্ব** (Unisher Alobela, Kemon Acho Meye). Dr. Sunanda Ghose, retired teacher of Political Science, was unanimously chosen as this year's eminent alumna. Dr. Kumkum Chattopadhyay received the citation on her behalf. A short speech was delivered by a student representative. A cultural programme organised by the cultural committee of the college brought the day's programme to a befitting end.

- The **Orientation Programme** for the newly admitted first semester students was held on 7th August, 2023 at the Centenary Hall of the college. Sri Debashis Biswas, Inspector of College, University of Calcutta was the Chief Guest.
- Birthdays of Pandit Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar and Sister Nivedita were celebrated on 29.9.2023 and 28.11.2023 respectively.
- **Teachers' Day** was celebrated by students of all departments. The OIC alongwith 6 teachers of the college attended Teachers' day programme organised by HE Department in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 5/9/2023 at Dhana Dhanya Auditorium.
- On 22nd December, 2023, Bethune College hosted the annual fest, **AALAP** that attracted participation from more than 100 institutions in Kolkata, fostering a lively exchange of talents. With a footfall exceeding 1000 attendees, the campus buzzed with excitement of students and visitors. 66 stalls including kiosks participated in the event. From cultural events to academic competitions, AALAP offered a diverse range of events. From quiz to western dance to our new events, EclatéEn-Runway (Theme Walk) and Shot-Cuts(Short FilmMaking), there was something for everyone to enjoy. A high-energy performance by "Alo The Band" was held in the evening. Overall, the fest was a resounding success, serving as a testament to the vibrant spirit of our college community.
- Bethune College Students' Committee worked very hard to make AALAP a success.
- The **Annual Sports Day** at Bethune College was held on 19th and 20th January, 2024. The event was inaugurated with hoisting of the Bethune College Sports flag by Dr Anushila Hazra Bhattacharya, Officer-in-Charge and the Chief Guest, Dr Pintu Sil, Officer-in-Charge, State Institute of Physical Education for Women, Hastings House. Lighting of the torch was done by the torch bearers, Shanmayee Bhattacharya, Rikta Guha Roy and Reni Gurung who are all National and State Level athletes. The event was attended by the Teacher-in-Charge of Bethune School and also, the alumni of Bethune College. A total of 15 events were organized in the span of two days. Premsang Lama, a student of UG1, Political Science department was declared the best performer.
- International Mother Language Day, **Bhasha Dibas** was celebrated on 21/2/2024 with students from English, Hindi and Bengali Departments sharing their experiences with languages. This was accompanied by a cultural programme organised by the Cultural Committee.
- A **Staff Picnic** was organised by the Staff Club on 4.2.2024 to Bidhan Sishu Udyan.

The **Alumni Association of Bethune College** is actively associated with the activities of the college. The Alumni Reunion of Bethune College Sammilani was held on 25th February, 2023. Mrinalini Emmerson Memorial Lecture held on 23.9.2023, was delivered by Dr Sheikh Maqbul Islam, Head,

Dept of Bengali, St Paul's College. Anandamela, a fair showcasing handmade sustainable items by alumni and present students was held on 16th September, 2023.

## TEACHERS

Bethune College is proud of its dedicated and erudite team of teachers. However, with a deep sense of grief, we mourn the loss of one of our most dedicated and scholarly teachers **Dr Abhijit Bhattacharyya, Assistant Professor, Department of Hindi** who left for his heavenly abode on **September 8, 2023**. We pray for his departed soul.

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.

Many teachers published books and had international publications. Some of the publications include:

- Tanwi Mukhopadhyay's book of poems *Niroti Paryay*, October, 2023
- Anindita Datta published her diary *Nosto Somoy Swapna Sohore* in December, 2023
- Anwasha Khan edited *Opar Banglar Kobitar Nirman Shilpo*, Bongiyoy Sahitya Sangsad, October, 2023
- Ranjana Sharma published a book *Shuturmurgon Ke Desh Mein* in 2023.
- Debadeepa Banerjee (co-authored with Soumen Ghosh) published a Chapter in the volume *Gender equality from a modern perspective- moving beyond diversity* published by CRS press: Taylor and Francis group.
- Dipyaman Pal co-edited a book titled *Gender Inequality and Its Implications on Education and Health*. He also contributed a chapter to a book published by Springer Nature, Singapore.
- Sulakshana Karmakar and Paramita Majumder published a book titled Fundamentals of Chemistry on NEP syllabus (CU) of Semester-1 in February, 2024.
- Dipyaman Pal, Hiroj Kumar Saha, Seemanti Ghosh, Smita Ray, Sritama Mukherjee, Seemanti Chatterjee, Chirantani Das, Debanjana Basu and Debadeepa Banerjee have published papers in international journals.

Dr. Nilanjana Bagchi delivered lecture on Soft Skills of Police Officers at the Central Detective Training Institute on 3.5.2023

Dr. Debadeepa Banerjee acted as Chairperson in 2nd International Conference on Peace Psychology 'A Journey to Peace: Within Self & Beyond' organized by West Bengal State University on 11.5.2023

Dr. Ranjana Sharma, delivered 05 lectures (on 30.5.23, 26.7.23, 25.8.23, 17.10.23, 07.02.2024) at the Central Translation Bureau under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India, Kolkata.

Sanjukta Roy presented a paper titled "Identity Politics and Democracy: An Enquiry into the Post-independent Indian Scenario" at the 6th Annual International Conference on Identity Politics and its Implications in the 21st Century organized by Bengal Institute of Political Studies in collaboration with IQAC, Bijoy Krishna Girls' College on September 9, 2023. She was also the Resource Person at One Day National Seminar on Emergence of Indian Nationalism: Remembering the Multi-faceted Contributions of Bankimchandra in Shaping the Idea of India, on August 9, 2023 organized by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India; the Institute of Social & Cultural Studies in collaboration with the PG Dept. of Political Science, Hooghly Mohsin College. She delivered a special lecture on Citizenship Skills, Constitutional Values and Knowledge of India at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Joka on January 19, 2024 as part of the PM SHRI Scheme.

Abhishek Dey published a chapter in Segmentation of Smoke Plumes Using Fast Local Laplacian Filtering in the Conference Proceedings of 7th International Conference on Computer Vision & Image Processing (CVIP 2022)

Dr. Satarupa Bandopadhyay was invited as a speaker in 3 national level seminars.

Dr. Sutapa Datta, Dr. Manjushree Mukhopadhyay and Dr. Soumya Chakraborty also presented papers at international seminars.

**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' sanctioned by ICSSR.

In keeping with the service rules, there have been transfers and retirements.

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.

