

## ANNUAL REPORT OF BETHUNE COLLEGE 2024-2025

### 10.3.2024-till date

With great pleasure, we present a brief report of the activities and achievements of the College during the session 2024-25. 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 happy to announce that we have secured **91st rank nationally in the College Category in the assessment by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (MHRD)** in 2024. Bethune College has participated in the NIRF rankings since 2019 and we have always featured in the top 100 colleges of the country.

The All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2024-25 was successfully submitted to the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, Government of India on March 10, 2025.

The Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) for the academic session 2022-23 was submitted to the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) on April 29, 2024. The submission received formal approval from NAAC on May 14, 2024.

The AQAR for the academic session 2023-24 has been submitted to NAAC on February 2, 2025. While submission confirmation has been received, formal approval from NAAC is currently pending.

Keeping in mind the recommendations of the NAAC Peer Team three new certificate courses were introduced in 2023-24. 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 50 students have enrolled for this course. The course has been initiated keeping in mind employability options for students and enhancing professional readiness skills.

A formal collaboration agreement was signed between Swami Vivekananda University and Bethune College on December 10, 2024. This collaboration aims to facilitate academic exchanges, program development initiatives, and collaborative research. In accordance with this agreement, Swami Vivekananda University is providing faculty support for the Certificate Course in Communicative English in Bethune College. Plans are underway to expand the partnership to include student internship opportunities and exchange programs in other spheres.

The college hostel which has been operational since November, 2022 now has around 100 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. CCTV has been installed in the hostel and internet facility for boarders is available. Extensive pest control has been done with the help of Bidhannagar Municipality. To address the critical water supply shortage, the college has sent a proposal for expansion of the ferrule size. As part of our ongoing efforts, we are systematically updating and maintaining essential infrastructure, including thorough cleaning of water tanks and reservoirs, servicing water filters, and ensuring optimal water distribution and quality.

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. The student strength this session combining the undergraduate and postgraduate streams is **1145**. Our students have performed consistently well in all university examinations.

In the last session, **163** UG students secured CGPA over 6 in Humanities & Social Sciences and **65** UG students secured CGPA over 7 in Science subjects. Special mention must be made of 07 students in Humanities and Social Sciences who secured CGPA over 8 (04 from Philosophy and 03 from Economics). There were 26 students in Science securing CGPA above 8 (3 from Statistics, 04 from Mathematics, 6 from Physics, 1 from Comp. Science, 06 from Zoology, 2 from Botany and 4 from Chemistry.)

PG results were equally good with as many as 32 students securing CGPA over 6 in their final semester.

**Prestigious scholarships:** We are glad that **9 students** in our Science departments are **INSPIRE scholars** [4(Physics)+ 2 (Maths) + 2(Zoology)+ 1 (Chemistry)].

This year, a memorial prize has been initiated for the highest proficiency in B.A. English Honours in the name of Dr Ramesh Chandra Basu. Stuti Chatterjee of UG 2024 is the first recipient of this prize.

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.

Recently, a former student of the Dept of History, Jayosree Adhikary (2019-2022) has been selected in the Masters Programme in Middle Eastern South Asian and African Studies (MESAAS) at Columbia University.

- Suparna Mondal, Puja Mandal, and Anuradha Sikdar of Department of Chemistry, Sem-1, secured 2nd position in the Bignyan Mela -2024 on 21-22 December, 2024 organised by Breakthrough Science Society.
- Srijata Pramanik of UG6, Dept of English won the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in Speech Competition, arranged by Calcutta University on 12.02.2024 while Radhika Modi, UG6, Economics won the 3rd prize in the same category.
- Kiran Noniya and Ayushi Kumari Shaw, UG1 students of the dept of Hindi, participated in ESSAY WRITING competition and EXTEMPORE Competition respectively held on 21.9.2024 at Vidyasagar Smriti Puraskar 2024 organized by Vidyasagar College for Women in collaboration with Panchla Mahavidyalaya, Prabhu Jagatbandhu College & Basanti Devi College. Both of them achieved Third Positions.
- Anindita Sen of Semester 1, Dept of History secured 3<sup>rd</sup> position in the 33rd Open International Karate Championship 2025. She also stood first in Women's Powerlifting Competition in 2025 organised by NIFS.
- Aishi Mitra & Asmita Saha of UG6, Dept of Political Science got 2nd place in Inter College PIXEL PERFECT competition at Loreto College in November 2024.
- Ankita Ranjan of Philosophy Department won First Prize at Reel Revolution, Film Spoof Writing (Hindi) at Aalap, 2024.
- Ishani Mitra, a student of UG 6, Department of Economics, has secured 1st position in Article Presentation Section, in Conjecture 24, organised by Department of Economics, Narendrapur Ramkrishna Mission Residential College.

- Political Science department UG3 student, Wrisita Sinha Mahapatra's article titled "From Dreamers to Doers: Youth Empowering Lives and Transforming Communities" was recognised among Top Ten Articles in The Trailblazers 2025 organised by Youngistan Foundation in January, 2025. She participated in the National Unity Day Quiz organised by MyGov and was among the first 200 winners. Her essay on "The Invincible Journey of the Indian Republic –The Past, Present and Future" was shortlisted among the best 250 at the competition arranged by the MyGov and Ministry of Defence.
- Aitijhya Dasmunshi, UG3, Dept of Psychology, participated and won the Doordarshan TV show competition "ANTAKSHARI" on 18th August, 2024.
- Dibyashree Samanta, UG3 of Psychology participated in Xavrang "COGNITIVE CLASH" Quiz on 17th Jan, 2025 and secured 3rd position.
- Debangana Biswas of UG3, Department of Zoology participated in INTER Elocution Competition on World Environment Day, organised by the Zoological Survey of India and secured 2<sup>nd</sup> position.

**Extension Activities by students:** As part of experiential learning, several departments organised **educational excursions and field trips**.

The **Department of Botany** conducted an educational tour as part of UG & PG curriculum to Sikkim from 16th May 2024 to 21st May 2024.

The **Department of Chemistry** organised an educational trip to Deulti for all the Undergraduate students on 1st Dec, 2024.

**Bengali Department** organised an educational tour to Bankura (Mukutmonipur, Jhilmili, Sutan, Panchmura) and Bishnupur from 16.03.24 to 18.03.24. The department travelled to Purulia, between 26/2/25 and 1/3/25 with PG Semester 4 and UG Semester 6 students.

PG4 students of the Department of **Psychology** participated in a one day industry visit to Phulia on 13th June 2024.

The department of **Zoology** organised an excursion to Dooars, North Bengal for UG and PG students from 12.11.24 to 17.11.24. Besides, educational visits to Subhash Sarobar Park were arranged for UG IDC students. On 27th June, UG2 students were accompanied to WBUAFS,

Garia, S. 24 Pgns as part of their SEC paper. UG students also visited Rabindra Sarovar Lake and State Poultry farm as part of their curriculum on 30.05.24 and 30.01.25 respectively.

The department of **History** conducted an educational trip to Bankura and Bishnupur from 03.08.24 to 05.08.24 for the students of UG3. 2 faculty members joined the group for the tour.

11 UG6 students of the department of **Physics**, under the guidance of Dr. Rakhi Paul participated in a workshop for Hands-on Training on Telescope use and Star Watching, arranged by the Indian Centre for Space Physics, Sitapur Campus in East Midnapore from 16th April to 17th April 2024. An institute visit was also arranged for the students.

An educational trip to Alipore Jail Museum, Kolkata was arranged by the dept of **Philosophy** on 18.01.25 with UG3.

A section of students from UG2 of the **English** department visited the Raj Bhawan as a part of outreach programme organised by the faculty members of Indian Museum, Kolkata on 20th July 2024. As part of Internship Programme (under CCF), some UG2 students interning with Tantuja visited Phulia.

### **Students' Week**

As per the directive of the Honourable Chief Minister of West Bengal, Bethune College observed Students' Week from 2nd January 2025 to 8th January 2025. The week-long celebration consisted of various activities aimed at the holistic development of students, including awareness programmes, competitions, counselling sessions, and interactive meetings.

1. Student Awareness Programme on Students' Welfare Schemes of Government of West Bengal (02.01.2025): A comprehensive discussion was conducted on the various students' welfare schemes offered by the Government of West Bengal.

2. Awareness Programme on "Healthy Lifestyle and Cleanliness" (03.01.2025). The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Bethune College organized a cleanliness drive focused on promoting healthy lifestyle practices and environmental consciousness.

### 3. Cultural Competitions (04.01.2025)

- a) Extempore Competition: Students were encouraged to deliver impromptu speeches in their preferred language (Hindi/English/Bengali)
- b) Creative Writing Competition: Participants were given specific topics and asked to compose written pieces in their language of choice (Hindi/English/Bengali).
- c) Quiz Competition: A knowledge-based quiz was conducted.
- d) Photography Competition: This competition provided students with an opportunity to showcase their creative photography skills. The topic was announced on the spot, challenging participants to capture meaningful images with limited preparation.

4. Parent-Teacher Meeting (Online) (05.01.2025): An online meeting was organized to facilitate interaction between faculty members and parents, allowing for discussions regarding student progress and other issues.

5. Career Counselling (06.01.2025): Dr. Satarupa Bandopadhyay conducted an informative session to guide students about various career options and pathways.

6. Psychological Counselling (07.01.2025): The Students' Activity Cell and NSS Unit jointly organized a psychological counselling session led by Dr. Nilanjana Bagchi to address mental health issues and ways of coping with the same.

7. Students' Meet with CM at Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium (08.01.2025): A delegation of 30 students, accompanied by teachers, from Bethune College attended the special meeting with the Honourable Chief Minister of West Bengal at Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium, marking the culmination of the Students' Week celebrations.

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

The **Kanyashree** Committee successfully processed **57** applications of K1 and K2 and **141** K3 scholarships in the last session. 314 students benefitted from the **Swami Vivekananda Merit cum Means Scholarship** in the last session. Besides, 28 applications for **Aikyashree**, **21 OASIS scholarships** have been processed. **15 applications have been processed** under National Scholarship Portal. 06 INSPIRE Scholarships have also been duly forwarded.

**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 students benefitted from the college aid fund.

India celebrates **National Science Day** annually on February 28 to honor Sir C.V. Raman's discovery of the Raman effect in 1928. On 28th February, 2025, the Science and Environment Club of Bethune College commemorated this day with the theme "Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science and Innovation for Viksit Bharat." The celebration featured three intra-college competitions: essay writing, scientific and technological theory explanation, and photography with enthusiastic participation from our students.

The Department of Zoology at Bethune College, in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), organized a special seminar on March 4, 2025, to commemorate National Science Day. The seminar featured Professor Srimanta Kumar Raut as the distinguished speaker, who delivered a lecture on "Biodiversity and Evolution of Medication." The programme included other engaging activities such as a poster presentation and a slogan writing competition for students. These supplementary events provided participants with opportunities to express their creativity while celebrating the significance of science in society.

Paschimbanga Natya Akademi, Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, Govt. of West Bengal organised the Binodini Memorial Lecture in collaboration with Bethune College on 10.08.2024. The Resource Person Prof Anuradha Kunda spoke on "Nandini theke Nathabati Jyotsnar Talowar"

### **College level Seminars**

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

Bethune College conducted a seminar on "Summer Internship for UG Students under the Curriculum and Credit Framework (CCF)" on April 1, 2024. Organised by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the college with Swami Shastrajnananda Maharaj, Secretary of the Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur, and Sri Debashish Biswas, Inspector of Colleges, Calcutta University as resource persons. The event was attended by

participants from various other colleges, including in-house teachers, fostering a diverse and enriching discussion.

The college also organized a comprehensive workshop on the Optional CVAC (Compulsory Value-Added Course), Value Oriented Life-Skill Education for UG Semester 2 students under the Curriculum and Credit Framework (CCF). The event, held on April 18, 2024, was organized by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the college. Dr. Sarmila Banerjee, Former Professor, Department of Economics, University of Calcutta, was the Resource Person. Addressing the diverse audience, which included in-house teachers from Bethune College and educators from other institutions, Dr. Banerjee provided practical insights and techniques to facilitate the successful implementation of the Value Oriented Life-Skill Education course.

An **Orientation Programme** for all UG Semester 2 students (session 2023-24) on CVAC & Internship was held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

In accordance with the Credit and Curriculum Framework (CCF), student internships have been established as a compulsory component for all undergraduate programs. To ensure effective implementation, a dedicated committee has been constituted under the leadership of a designated Nodal Officer.

During the current academic year, among students enrolled in Semester 2 under the CCF, 48 from the Departments of English, 22 from History, 17 from Psychology, and 11 Political Science have successfully completed their mandatory internships. These valuable professional experiences were facilitated through partnerships with prestigious organizations including the Indian Museum, State Archives, Webel, Tantuja, BPCL, AIM Foundation and other notable institutions. The internship program continues to provide students with practical industry exposure that complements their theoretical knowledge and enhances their professional competence.

IQAC has taken steps to enhance administrative efficiency by conducting a focused training programme for office staff on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, covering crucial aspects of Students' Database Management and Financial Module operations. The digitization process has been accelerated with the implementation of online UG and PG fee payment systems.

ICC-A sensitization programme for Awareness of Sexual Harassment in Educational Institution was organised by the Internal Complaints Committee, Bethune College on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2024. Apart from teaching and non teaching Staff all service personnel present in the campus attended the programme



### **Departmental Seminars**

**The PG Department of English** organised the Second Professor Shanta Mahalanobis Memorial Lecture on 5th March, 2025, delivered by Professor Shanta Datta, Presidency University who spoke on “The Struggle for Women’s Empowerment in Nineteenth Century Britain.”

The department also organised a seminar titled “From Literature to Performance: Scopes and Avenues” on 2nd April, 2024 with Dr. Pritha Kundu, Asst Professor, HMM College for Women and Presenter in Akashvani Maitree (AIR) and Ms Wriddhi Sengupta, Accompanist, Akashvani Maitree (AIR) as resource persons. The department also arranged a film screening of “A Ride in the Rain” that was selected for the Kolkata International Film Festival and Nepal International Film Festival, on 22nd April, 2024. This was followed by a discussion on the filmmaking process presided over by Utsab Ray (Writer & Director), Rohit Gharami (Editor), Aritra Dutta Banik (Colorist), Debraj Naiya (Cinematographer and Production Designer). The department also arranged for a series of lectures pertaining to the needs of PG3 students on Alexander Pope’s *An Essay on Criticism* on 16/11/2024 and 23/11/2024 by Professor Himadri Lahiri, Former Professor, Dept of English and Culture Studies, University of Burdwan, West Bengal and currently, professor at the dept of english, Netaji Subhas Open University, West Bengal.

The Department of **Political Science** arranged a seminar on “Gender and Politics-Women’s Movement in Contemporary India: Realities and Dilemmas” on 16th July, 2024 which was presided over by Dr. Oindrila Dattagupta, Assistant Professor of Vivekananda College for Women, Kolkata.

**Department of Economics** organised a workshop on “Data Analysis and Research Methodology” on 12th December, 2024 with Professor Sudakshina Gupta, Professor, Dept of Economics, Calcutta University and Dr Shirshendu Mukherjee, Associate Professor of Economics, St Paul’s Cathedral Mission College as Resource Persons.

**The PG Department of Psychology** organised a talk “Common Problems of Adolescence” on 09.12.2024 in collaboration with the Sayantani Adhikary Foundation with Dr. Ashish Mukhopadhyay, Head, Dept of Psychiatry, NRS Medical College as Speaker.

**The Department of Physics** organised the 9th Ananta Kumar Sarkar & Snehalata Sarkar Memorial One day seminar for “The Advancement of the Knowledge of Physics” on 19th

Nov, 2024 sponsored by the Endowment Fund received from Dr. Annapurna Sircar, retired teacher of the Department. Dr. Jayashree Saha, Professor, Dept of Physics of Univ of Calcutta and Dr. Indrani Sarkar, Associate Professor of Physics, Department of Basic Science and Humanities, Narula Institute of Technology, delivered lectures on “Cell Biology and Physics” and “The Exceptional Life and Work of Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin” respectively. The department also organised a “Hands on Training on Arduino” for UG Semester III students on 26th Nov, 2024. Mr. Debarshi Chakraborty, Founder Wisdom Kids and Franchise Owner at SP Robotics presided over the seminar. The 13th Chameli Basu Memorial Lecture was organised on 30.11.2024 in which Dr. Sukla Basu, Professor and Head of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Kalyani Govt. Engineering College delivered a lecture on “Antenna: A Building Block of Wireless Communication.” The Department of Physics also commemorated National Space Day on August 24, 2024.

The **Department of Zoology** organised a joint seminar on “Forest and Wildlife conservation in Sundarban:Past, Present and Future” delivered by Shri Sukumar Paira and “Climate changes in Sundarban:Myth and Realities” delivered by Jyotirindranarayan Lahiri on 05.06.2024. Another series of lectures were arranged on 07.01.2025 named “Insights into the cellular autophagy-lysosomal degradation system” and “Exploring opportunities in the UK in Biology Research”, delivered by Dr. Arindam Bhattacharya, Development Biology Group, Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, Maharashtra and Anwesha Manna, MIBPT Doctoral Fellow at Univ of Birmingham, UK-RI syngenta respectively.

**The Department of History** arranged two seminars on “Popular Culture of Bengal” by Dr. Gauranga Dandapat, Assistant professor at APJ Abdul Kalam College, New Town on 26.11.24 and 06.12.24. Dr. Prasenjit Ghosh, Assistant Professor at SRFTI delivered a lecture on “Film as a medium of Popular Culture” on 11.12.24. The dept in collaboration with IQAC, Bethune College organised a seminar on “Museums and Archives in India” with Dr. Piyasi Bharasa, Associate Professor at Univ of Calcutta on 03.01.25 as resource person.

The department of **Mathematics** organised a seminar on “Quantum Technologies-The Second Quantum Revolution” on 30th April, 2024. The Resource Person was Dr Aditi Sen De, S S Bhatnagar Awardee and former student of the Department of Mathematics, Bethune College.

The PG department of **Botany** organised the 7th Sanghamitra Sanyal Memorial Lecture on “Opportunity of Biological Research Through India-Antarctic Programme” on 9th April,

2024. Dr. Punarbasu Chaudhuri, Associate Professor of the dept of Environmental Sciences, Univ. of Calcutta was the resource person. The department in association with the NSS unit of Bethune College arranged a One Day workshop on “Herbal Abir Preparation” on 20th March 2024. Dr. Suman Dutta, Assistant professor of the dept of Botany, Serampore college presided over the workshop. . A Career counseling webinar on “Our students: scaling new heights” was also conducted in collaboration with the career counseling cell on 15.03.2024.

The Department of Botany, in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), organized a hands-on training workshop on "Dry Flower Technology and Its Application in Value Added Products" on March 3 & 4, 2025. The workshop featured Dr. Supriya Roy Mandal, Proprietor of Decora Domus and Guest Teaching Assistant at West Bengal State University, as the resource person. The initiative highlights the importance of dry flower technology in increasing shelf life and preservation of fresh flowers. The workshop demonstrated how transformation of dried materials into value-added products can create employment opportunities for rural housewives, students, and farmers. An exhibition of the products made at the workshop was also organised by the department.

The department of **Computer Science** organised a webinar titled “Roadmap to a Career in School Teaching” in collaboration with the Career Counselling Cell on 08.06.24 where Ms. Simran Shaw, an ex-student of the college and an assistant teacher of Comp Sci in Don Bosco School, Liluah interacted with the present students. The dept also arranged a seminar on “Hands-on Cybersecurity: Ethical Hacking Fundamentals” on 29th Oct, 2024. Riya Khan, Senior Security Engineer at H&R India Pvt. Ltd, Sampreeti Sarkar, Security Engineer at H&R India Pvt. Ltd and Swastika Ghosh, an alumna of 2022 served as resource persons.

The department of **Chemistry** organised a webinar titled “Exploring Diverse Opportunities: Alternative Career Options after bachelor’s in Chemistry” on 27th July, 2024 in collaboration with Career Counselling Cell and IQAC, Bethune College . Ms Shinjini Kar, Research Trainee at AIIMS, Delhi presided over the webinar.

### **Human Rights Cell**

**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.

On December 7, 2024, the NSS unit in collaboration with the Election Commission commemorated National Voter's Day and Human Rights Day by holding a Poster Competition. In April 2024, the Human Rights Cell published the sixth issue of their magazine "Jagriti," focusing on Rights to Life, Liberty and Personal Security.

### **Women's Studies Centre**

The Women's Studies Centre (WSC) of Bethune College maintained an extensive calendar of social and community-oriented programmes throughout the 2024-25 academic year, demonstrating its commitment to social justice, community welfare, and women's empowerment. The Centre initiated its annual activities with a significant health awareness campaign, collaborating with NSS and the Rotary Club of Belvedere Gardens & Hindol Society to organize a Thalassemia awareness and testing camp on July 27, 2024. In August, the Centre undertook several community engagement initiatives, beginning with Banamohatsav on August 12, which focused on environmental awareness while including women and children from the Goabagan slum community. This was followed by a Rakhi Bandhan celebration promoting Women in Solidarity on August 13, and a student-led protest march on August 14, showcasing support for students' rights. The Centre's commitment to community welfare was reflected in the organization of a Saree Mela on September 29, 2024, where sarees were distributed to underprivileged women before Durga Puja.

On December 4, responding to the UGC circular on the Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat Campaign, the Centre organized a comprehensive programme including creative competitions and a collective pledge by the college community against child marriage. On December 10, International Human Rights Day, the Centre collaborated with the Internal Complaints Committee, Students' Grievance Redressal Committee, and Human Rights Cell to conduct a Gender-Based Violence Awareness Programme. This event consisted of presentations by Sub Inspector Tanusree Das and Sub Inspector Subhashish Sarkar, who provided comprehensive information about legal frameworks protecting women's rights, digital safety measures, and emergency services. The programme included detailed explanations of the SHe Box portal

and various legislative protections, including the Domestic Violence Act 2005, The Sexual Harassment Act 2013, POCSO Act 2012, and the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023. Through these diverse initiatives, the Women's Studies Centre demonstrated its dedication to creating an aware, inclusive, and socially responsible academic environment while addressing critical social issues affecting women and children in the community.

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. For the 2023-24 session, 361 out of 391 enrolled students completed the course. Notable lectures included topics on Social Media ethics, Artificial Intelligence, and Human Rights in Indian Cinema. A Yoga workshop were also conducted. For 2024-25, 316 students have enrolled. This session, the course started on December 17, 2024. Key lectures included Dr. Pritha Bhattacharjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science, University of Calcutta on environmental ethics and Smt. Sumita Mukhopadhyay on "Women in literature: an ethical perspective." A Film Screening on Swami Vivekananda: "Jaye tabo Jaye" in collaboration with NSS Unit, Bethune College and Shiksha, Swasthya, Bijnan was organised on January 15, 2025. The course includes lectures, presentations, and an MCQ test.

**WEBEL:** Since 2006-07 WBEIDC –WIL division in collaboration with Bethune College offers a 120 hour 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 Inplibnet. Recently the library has initiated the WEB-OPAC online catalogue browsing service, available through the institutional website.

- UG **Admission** for the session 2024-25 in 4-year B.A./ B.Sc. (with or without research) streams following the Curriculum and Credit Framework (2022) under the University of Calcutta was conducted online maintaining reservation criteria according to Government guidelines on the WBHED's **CENTRALISED ADMISSION PORTAL**, followed by college portal.. A total number of **15090** applications were received for **678** seats in 18 courses (B.A. – 09. B.Sc. – 09).

Altogether **314** students completed their Registration process under the University. The entire process of Admission and Registration was conducted online. During the registration process, ABC ids of all students were uploaded on the university portal.

- **CAS** files of 09 teachers (out of which 4 are for Associateship) have been processed in 2024-25 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.

### **Students' Activity Cell**

**The Students' Activity Cell**, along with the various Clubs conducted many activities throughout the year. The Quiz Club demonstrated exceptional talent throughout the year, with members securing top positions in multiple competitions. The club also participated in prestigious events like the Kolkata International Quiz Festival (January 9, 2025) and the Penguin Kolkata Literary Meet (January 18, 2025).

Members of the debate club participated in a programme Youth Corner organised by Zee 24 Ghanta in the college campus. It was telecast on 3/8/2024. Students of Quiz Club, along with others participated in Youth Adda, conducted by Doordarshan telecast on 24/09/2024 on DD Bangla Channel. Students of the Cultural Club participated in an Antakshari Competition organised by Akashvani which was telecast on 3/3/2024.

The Science and Environment Club balanced educational initiatives with ecological awareness through diverse programmes, celebrating National Science Day (February 28, 2024), hosting a scientific talk on Antimicrobial Resistance (June 26, 2024) with Dr. Indranil Samanta, and organising a Plastic Awareness Programme (August 27, 2024). The club also arranged experiential learning opportunities like educational model competitions (November 29, 2024) and a planet watching session at the Indian Centre for Space Physics (January 28,

2025), while participating in external events including the Move for Earth Symposium (March 8-9, 2024).

The Photography Club documented major college events including Prize Day 2024, Students' Week, and various departmental seminars, while simultaneously organizing competitive events. Their competition calendar included an Environment Day Photography Competition (2024) and both intra-college and inter-college photography contests, providing platforms for creative expression alongside their documentation responsibilities.

The Literary Club facilitated creative expression through events including a poetry discussion seminar "Debipokho Andhokar Alor Prarthona" with poet Chaitali Chattopadhyay (September 30, 2024). They also organized Film Spoof Writing competitions at both intra-college (November 28, 2024) and inter-college levels (December 20, 2024).

The Drama Club participated in Vidyasagar College's 'Smriti Puroskar' (September 23, 2024), winning the first prize and organizing diverse theatrical events on campus. They hosted an Inter College Street Play competition on November 29, 2024, coordinated an intra-college Dumb Charades event (November 29, 2024), and arranged a professional presentation of "Roktokorobi Natok" by Subhasis Gangopadhyay's theatre troupe which featured visually challenged actors (December 17, 2024).

**The Intra College Competitions** were organised by the Students' Activity Cell and Bethune College Students' Committee on 29th November 2024. In all, 23 competitions were held. The Department of Psychology was declared the "Champion Department" at the **Intra College Competitions**.

### **Career Counselling Cell**

The **Career Counselling Cell** of Bethune College has been actively working to provide students with diverse job opportunities and new employment avenues through various initiatives throughout the year. In March 2024, the Cell organized an online awareness program for teaching career aspirants in association with Teach for India, followed by an Expert Session on GRE and TOEFL in collaboration with Education Testing Service (ETS) India.

On April 9, 2024, the Cell conducted an Awareness Programme on Career Counselling and Women's Rights in the workplace in association with the District Legal Services Authority, featuring Ms. Mou Ghatak Majumdar, WBJS, Secretary, DLSA Kolkata, as the key speaker. The Cell also collaborated with academic departments to deliver subject-oriented career

guidance, including a webinar with the Department of Computer Science in June 2024 where Simran Shaw, an alumna of Bethune College, discussed career options in Computer Science.

In July 2024, the Cell partnered with the Department of Chemistry to organize a career counselling webinar where Shinjini Kar, Research Trainee at AIIMS, New Delhi and another Bethune College alumna, shared insights about alternative career opportunities available after completing a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry.

The Cell's efforts extended to organizing several campus recruitment initiatives, including a Pool Campus Recruitment Drive conducted by ICICI Bank on August 8, 2024. Additional campus recruitment drives were arranged with prominent organizations such as Tata Consultancy Services, Cognizant, Trustklub Limited, and Newton Gate Academy. From these recruitment efforts, 17 students secured placements from among the 40 who participated.

Continuing its tradition from the previous year, the Cell facilitated student enrollment in the NASSCOM Future Skills programme, organized by the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal, in collaboration with IBM SkillsBuild, further expanding opportunities for professional development among Bethune College students.

### **Report on NSS Activities at Bethune College (2024-25)**

The NSS unit of Bethune College demonstrated remarkable dedication through diverse activities spanning volunteer participation, social outreach, environmental consciousness, and health awareness initiatives throughout 2024-25.

Individual volunteers achieved notable recognition in various camps and competitions. Ms. Surabhi Salaka participated in the National Integration Camp at Assam Agricultural University from January 21-27, 2025 while Ms. Ishita Dey attended the NSS Adventure camp in Manali from November 20-29, 2024. Ms. Soujanya Saha secured fourth position in the University level Pre-Republic Day Parade Camp on September 23, 2024. The unit's Program Officer, Dr. Sritama Mukherjee, served as a Master Trainer for the My Bharat program in Kolkata district after attending training on November 11, 2024.

The unit conducted its Special Camp from March 18-23, 2024, at their adopted slum Goabagan. The camp featured workshops on crucial topics like 'Good touch and Bad touch' for children, disability awareness, and health and hygiene. They also organized practical sessions on herbal Abir preparation and organic manure production, alongside an eye check-up camp for elderly residents in collaboration with Hindol and Sushrut.



Environmental initiatives formed a significant part of their activities. The unit celebrated Sir JED Bethune's birthday on July 12, 2024, with the "Plant4Mother Campaign," planting 78 saplings and creating a dedicated Green Zone. They observed World Environment Day on June 5, 2024, with extensive cleanliness drives and environmental awareness programs.

Health awareness remained a priority, with the unit organizing programs on World Hepatitis Day (July 27, 2024), including awareness sessions and community outreach. On June 14, 2024, nine volunteers participated in a blood donation camp commemorating World Blood Donor's Day at Swasthya Bhavan.

The Swachhta Hi Seva program ran from September 19-October 2, 2024, with daily activities including cleanliness drives at historical sites, college premises, and public spaces. The volunteers performed street plays at their adopted slum (September 28) and Ruby More bus stop (September 30) to spread awareness about cleanliness.

Community outreach programs included serving food and medical kits to residents of Ramthakur Ashrama old age home on September 30, 2024. On December 2, 2024, they organized an AIDS awareness program at the Sovabazar red light area in collaboration with various organizations, conducting health surveys and cultural programs.

The unit also focused on youth development through various programs including International Youth Day (August 12, 2024), Constitution Day (November 26, 2024), and a film show on Swami Vivekananda for National Youth Day. Special events included organizing a 100m run for slum children during the college's Annual Sports Day on December 14, 2024, and selling eco-friendly items during the Annual Fest on December 20, 2024.

A mental health awareness program in collaboration with SAC was conducted on January 7, 2025, while a voter awareness program with the Election Commission of India took place on December 7, 2024, demonstrating the unit's commitment to both physical and civic well-being of students.

Throughout the academic year, the NSS unit maintained a balance between regular activities within the college and outreach programs in the community, effectively fulfilling their role in social service and student development, living up to their motto, Not me but you.

### **Bratachari Certificate Course**

The Bratachari Certificate course for the session 2023-24 was completed on 1st October, 2024. UG Semester 3 students attended regular classes and gave their final theory and practical examination on the same day.

### **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 society. Presently the Unit is running a Youth for kids project on "Health and Hygiene." In August 2024, a "Gift a Book" campaign was organized in collaboration with the LWB Foundation. This literacy initiative successfully distributed books to approximately 50 street children along Bidhan Sarani, aiming to cultivate reading habits among these young individuals.

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

- The Annual Prize Day Ceremony of Bethune College was held on March 9th, 2024. Professor Jayasri Ray Chaudhuri, Director of Public Instruction, Higher Education Department, Government of West Bengal, graced the event as the Chief Guest, and Professor Pradip Kumar Ghosh, Former Vice-Chancellor of Jadavpur University, was the Distinguished Guest. The ceremony was attended by a distinguished audience, including the college alumni, awardees, and their proud parents. The event celebrated the academic achievements and extracurricular excellence of the students, with prizes and awards presented across various categories. After the formal Prize Distribution Ceremony, the students of Bethune College mesmerized the audience with a captivating performance of Tagore's dance drama 'Mayar Khela'
- **Independence Day** and **Republic Day** were observed in the College premises on 15.8.24 and 26.1.2025. Students participated in march past and drill followed by a short cultural programme.
- **Rabindra Jayanti** was celebrated on 21st May, 2024.
- **Birthday of JED Bethune** was celebrated on 12th July, 2024 with floral tributes to the statue.
- Bethune Day 2024 commenced with a series of tributes to John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune. The day began with homage at his tomb in the Lower Circular Road Cemetery, followed by floral tributes to the plaque at Bethune College and his bust at

Bethune Collegiate School. Busts of Bethune, Vidyasagar, and Sister Nivedita at Bethune College were also honoured. The main programme started with a student exhibition inaugurated by distinguished guests Professor Agnibha Bandopadhyay, eminent vocal artist and Associate Professor, Dept of Rabindrasangeet, Rabindra Bharati University and Dr. Shanta Mukhopadhyay, renowned author. The programme, onstage, included felicitation of guests, lamp lighting, an inaugural song, floral tributes to Bethune's portrait, and planting of saplings. After the Officer-in-Charge's welcome address and a speech by student representative, Roopsa Sanyal, Professor Bandopadhyay delivered a lecture on Rabindrasangeet, complemented by his own musical renditions. Dr. Mukhopadhyay then presented the Bethune Day lecture on women's empowerment. The college also honoured Dr. Sumitra Chaudhuri, former Professor of Chemistry as this year's eminent alumna. The Women's Studies Centre and NSS Unit collaborated on a community outreach initiative, involving residents from the nearby Goabagan slum in the plantation drive and providing them with food packets and umbrellas. The NSS unit also observed National Youth Day and raised funds through plant sales. The Students' Activity Cell exhibited items created during their Art and Crafts Course for sale. In a gesture towards social responsibility, students and staff pledged for a "Nasha Mukta Bharat" (Addiction-Free India). The day concluded with a performance of Tagore's 'Rakta Karabi' organized by the college's cultural committee.

- An **Orientation Programme** was conducted for newly admitted first semester students on September 10, 2024. The event featured addresses from several key institutional representatives, including the Officer-in-Charge, the IQAC Coordinator, Teachers' Council Secretary, Convener of the Students' Activity and Career Counselling Cell, Admission Committee Convenor, CCF Convenor, along with other distinguished faculty members. The programme provided new students with essential information regarding academic procedures, institutional policies, and available support services to facilitate their successful transition into the college environment.
- Birthdays of Pandit Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar and Sister Nivedita were celebrated on 29.9.2024 and 28.11.2024 respectively.
- **Teachers' Day** was celebrated by students of all departments.
- Bethune College's annual fest **Aalap**, themed "Empowering voices, Inspiring futures," was held on December 20th, 2024, drawing approximately 2000 attendees and participants from 45 prestigious institutions including IIT-Kharagpur, KIIT, and

Scottish Church College, to name a few. The vibrant celebration featured 6 food stalls, 9 food kiosks, 18 non-food stalls, and 27 non-food kiosks, creating a diverse and engaging atmosphere for all. The event showcased talent through 7 onstage competitions, including quiz, Indian vocal, Indian dance, and debate, alongside 5 offstage events such as photography and street play, with the latter being held earlier on November 29th, 2024. This year's Aalap introduced new events including tote bag decoration and film spoof writing, while successfully reintroducing the street play competition, all of which garnered enthusiastic participation from various colleges.

A highlight of the fest was an outreach programme organized by the NSS Unit in collaboration with the Bethune College Students' Committee, featuring a captivating dance performance by underprivileged children. The festivities concluded with a melodious performance by the STB collective band, whose soulful music provided a perfect ending to this celebration of talent and creativity. Bethune College Students' Committee worked tirelessly to make AALAP a success.

- Bethune College held its Annual Sports on December 13-14, 2024, with heats on the first day and finals on the second. The event was inaugurated by Chief Guest Madhu Kumar, Captain of Indian Railways' Women's National Basketball team. Premsang Lama (last year's champion), Shibashini Tudu, and Ariha Das lit the torch. Children from the adopted slum of Goabagan, which has been adopted by the NSS unit of the college, also participated in the annual sports day event as an effort towards inclusion, with NSS arranging their visit to the college sports. After 15 events, Shibashini Tudu (Bengali Department, Semester III) emerged as College Champion.

In the West Bengal Education Directorate's District Sports Meet (February 6-8, 2025), 14 students represented the college. Premsang Lama (Political Science, Semester III) won bronze in the 800m race, while Shibashini Tudu secured gold in shot put and qualified for the State Level Meet. The college Kho Kho team reached the quarter-finals.

- International Mother Language Day, **Bhasha Dibas** was celebrated on 21/2/2025 with students and teachers from Departments of English, Hindi, Bengali and Sanskrit sharing their experiences with languages. This was accompanied by a cultural programme organised by the Cultural Committee.

- On 7th and 8th March, 2025, Women's Studies Centre celebrated Women's Day with a rally and a slogan campaign.

The **Alumni Association of Bethune College** is actively associated with the activities of the college. The Alumni Reunion of Bethune College Sammilani will be held on 12th March, 2025. Mrinalini Emmerson Memorial Lecture held on 28.9. 2024 was delivered by Dr Bipradas Bhattacharya, Former Teacher, Narendrapur Ramakrishna Mission. Biki Kini r Haat, a fair showcasing handmade sustainable items by alumni and present students was held on 19th September, 2024.

## 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, teachers also act as Resource persons in seminars, workshops, etc. conducted by other colleges/universities. They also regularly attend Orientation Programmes, Refresher Courses and Summer Schools conducted by the various Academic Staff Colleges as part of the Faculty Improvement Programme.

The college magazine **Adiganta**, dedicated to Sukumar Ray, Meera Mukherjee and others was formally published in October 2024. Apart from this, many teachers published books and had international publications. Some of the publications include:

*It is a matter of great pride that Audrija Chowdhury successfully completed her PhD under the able supervision of Dr Rupa Pal, Associate Professor, Dept of Mathematics. Her viva-voce was conducted on 1st August, 2024.*

- Dipyaman Pal has published a monograph ***Performance Analysis of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry: A Global Outlook***, published by Emerald Publishing Limited, Bingley,UK, in February 2025.
- Anindita Datta published a book entitled "Ganit Kalpana Ebong Jounata", Bhashalipi, in April 2024.
- Arati Banerjee published a book titled *Gond Ramayani*, Vol I in 2024.
- Reviews of Amrita Bagchi's book titled '**Health Care in Post - Independence India: Kolkata and the crisis of Private Health care**' were published in Anandabazar Patrika and Anushtup.

Mousumi Chattopadhyay, Arpita Dey, Smita Ray, Dipyaman Paul, Manjari Ghosh, Namita Jaiswal, Suchandra Chowdhury, Hiroj Kumar Saha, Rupa Pal, Sutapa Dutta, Manjari Ghosh, Neelanjana Basu, Sumita Mukhopadhyay, Anwesha Khan, Mohua Chatterjee, Debadeepa Banerjee, Chirantani Das, Ishani Chowdhury also contributed chapters and reviews in reputed journals and books.

Seemanti Ghosh, Sritama Mukherjee, Supriti Paul, Ranjana Sharma, Namita Jaiswal, Amrita Bagchi, Sourav Ganguly, Soumya Chakraborty and Srinjana Ghosh presented papers in various international and national level seminars throughout the year.

Nilanjana Bagchi acted as resource person in Legal Aid Services under Govt of West Bengal and delivered a lecture on “Post Traumatic Stress Disorder” on 4th August. Rakhi Paul was a the resource person in “Vidyarthider Janya” a programme arranged by Prasar Bharati All India Radio, Akashvani, Kolkata on 20<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2024 and Satarupa Bandopadhyay spoke on ‘Bharater Aay Baishamya o Arthaniti’ in a discussion programme *Arthanitir Duniya*, broadcast on All India Radio, Kolkata, on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2024. Ranjana Sharma participated in Kavya Sandhya, All India Radio, Sanchayita on 02.1.2025.

She also acted as Resource Person at Trade Mark Registry Office and Central Translation Bureau. Smita Roy delivered an invited lecture on the occasion of National Science Day at Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Narendrapur on 28th February, 2025. Saptarshi Mondal acted as resource person in a workshop on “Application of R” organized by The Department of Statistics, Surendranath College on 12.11.2024.

In keeping with the service rules, there have been transfers and retirements. The college bid farewell to former faculty members Dr Amita Kar from the Chemistry Department and Dr Shyamali Sen from the Psychology Department during a ceremony held on April 27, 2024. On 16th December, 2024, a farewell ceremony was organised in honour of Dr Kamal Kanti Som of Physics Department and Smt Suchimita Maitra of Bengali Department.

The college mourned the tragic loss of former student Paurabi Das from the Zoology Department, who passed away in an electrocution accident on August 1, 2024.

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 continuing upholding the rich legacy of this heritage institution.