

Annual Report of Bethune College (2025-26)

With great pleasure, we present a brief report of the activities and achievements of the College during the session 2025-26. 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.

ACCREDITATION AND RECOGNITION

The college was placed in the Rank Band 151–200 in the NIRF Rankings 2025 under the College category. Institutional data for NIRF 2026 was submitted on 27th February 2026.

The AISHE 2023–24 was successfully submitted to the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, Government of India, on 10th March 2025, and AISHE 2024–25 was subsequently submitted on 13th October 2025.

The AQAR for the session 2023–24 was submitted to NAAC on 2nd February 2025 and was approved on 8th April 2025. The AQAR for 2024–25 has been prepared and was placed before the IQAC External Meeting held on 24th February 2026 for approval. It will be uploaded to the NAAC portal once submissions are opened for the respective session.

The Principal of the college was felicitated for securing an A+ grade in NAAC accreditation by the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal, and the West Bengal State Council of Higher Education. The programme, held on August 8th, 2025, was graced by the Hon'ble Minister in Charge, Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal.

ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS

On 23rd May 2025, an Academic Collaboration Agreement was signed between Praxis Business School and Bethune College for the development and implementation of various academic activities, including short-term courses, Faculty Development Programmes, seminars, workshops, and internships.

On 1st December 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the PG Department of English, Bethune College, and the PG Department of French, Chandernagore College, for a Faculty Exchange Programme comprising a 30-hour certificate course in Communicative English and Communicative French. The course will be conducted in hybrid mode for the present students of the college.

AUDITS AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Compliance Audit (CAG) for the period 01.09.2015 to 30.09.2025 was conducted from 29th October 2025 to 10th November 2025. For the academic sessions 2023-24 and 2024-25, Internal Academic Audit of all departments took place between 4th July 2025 to 31st July 2025. Reports submitted by auditors were analysed by IQAC members on the basis of SWOC and shared with departments.

The IQAC of Bethune College has been reconstituted periodically, with the most recent reconstitution taking place in August 2025.

PARTICIPATION IN IMPORTANT EVENTS

Principal Dr. Rajyasri Roy and IQAC coordinator Dr. Sudeshna Mitra attended an Orientation Workshop on “*NIRF Methodology and Parameters*” organized by Department of Higher Education, West Bengal State Council of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal and Surendranath College on **5.1.2026**.

INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

As part of our ongoing infrastructure maintenance and upgradation efforts, generously supported by the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal, significant progress has been made on several fronts. Restoration and repair work of the Administrative Building, which is also a designated Heritage Building, is currently underway, with approximately half of the work completed to date. In addition, comprehensive maintenance of the water supply systems has been undertaken, including thorough cleaning of water tanks and reservoirs, servicing of water filters, and measures to ensure optimal water distribution and quality across the premises. CCTV cameras have recently been installed on the rear boundary wall of the campus, in the corridors of the Economics and Psychology Departments in Kadambini Bhawan, and in the corridors of the English, Bengali, and Statistics Departments in Vidyasagar Bhawan.

The college hostel, operational since November 2022, currently accommodates approximately 100 boarders. The mess is managed efficiently by the students themselves. Proper maintenance, hygiene, and infrastructural facilities are ensured for all boarders. The Public Works Department (Civil) has undertaken major repair works. To address the critical water supply shortage, the college has arranged for the installation of a ferrule with expanded capacity.

STUDENT STRENGTH AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

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 approximately 1100. Our students have performed consistently well in all university examinations.

In the last session, 122 UG students secured CGPA over 6 in Humanities & Social Sciences and 55 UG students secured CGPA over 7 in Science subjects. It is worth mentioning that 40 students from Humanities scored over 7 and 23 students from Science Depts have CGPA over 8. We are proud to announce that three students from the Computer Science Department and one from the Chemistry Department have secured a SGPA of over 9 in the B.Sc. Semester VI Examination, 2025. Notably, the highest scorer from the Dept of Computer Science Department has also achieved the distinction of being the university topper.

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 5 students in our Science departments are INSPIRE scholars [2(Physics)+ 2 (Statistics) + 1(Zoology)].

In the past one year 17 present and former students of the PG Dept of English have cleared UGCNET and WBSET.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

The college encourages and motivates students to participate in various events and competitions outside the institution and contribute to social causes. Notable achievements include:

Department of Botany:

- Avipsita Basu (UG3) delivered a presentation on Enhancing Productivity through Smart and Sustainable Agriculture at Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) 2026 on 18th December 2025, qualifying for the state-level final round. She also participated in a one-day Workshop on Green Futures organized by W.E Nature Society at Loreto College on 15th January 2026 and attended a 3-day Summer School on Quantum Foundations organized by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing from 8th June 2025. She was invited as Student Reporter for Kolkata Literary Meet 2025 by The Telegraph.
- Sakshi Mishra (UG5) presented at the Sustainable Eco Hackathon organized by TERI Institute of Advanced Studies, New Delhi (2nd round winner) on 18th November 2025. She has submitted a paper in the peer-reviewed college journal Heritage on Interdisciplinary Dimensions of Astrological Botany and represented the college at St. Xavier's University's Annual Fest Xavrang on 18th January 2025.
- Sakshi Mishra, Soumili Mitra Roy, Poulomi Dey, Debadrita Saha, and Amtul Karim (UG Sem 5) qualified for the first round of the E-YUVA FELLOW SCHEME with a fellowship of Rs. 2,500 per month per fellow and an annual grant of Rs. 2.5 lakhs, organized by E-YUVA Centre, Adamas University, supported by BIRAC (A Government of India Enterprise). The second round screening is in process.
- Soumili Mitra Roy (UG5) won 2nd prize in inter-college Extempore competition at Vidyasagar College for Women on 19th September 2025 and 1st prize in inter-college essay competition at the same institution. She received the 'Serar Sera' trophy from Vidyasagar College for Women for receiving prizes in multiple events. She presented a poster on National Voter's Day 2025 at Bethune College, was awarded 2nd prize in the Elocution competition organized by WBPCB on World Wetland Day 2025, and won 3rd prize in Debate competition and 1st prize in Quiz competition organized by Gardenreach Prayas (a cultural institute) on 4th January 2026.

Department of Economics:

- Anuska Neogi (UG6) won 1st position in Case Analysis at Ecopolemics 2025 at Maulana Azad College, 2nd runner-up in IPR Policy Parley at Ecolore XII at Loreto College, 2nd runner-up in paper presentation at Econverge 2025 at Scottish Church College, and 3rd position in Business Case at Srijan 2025 at Shri Shikshayatan College. She presented papers at Ceteris Paribus at Lady Brabourne College, Confluence XVIII 2025 at St. Xavier's College, and Arthatantra at Presidency University. She participated in Lecture Demonstration and Group Discussion at Ceteris Paribus and wrote an article for YESM 2024 at Jadavpur University.
- Rupsha Saha (UG6) won 3rd Prize at Ecolore 2024 at Loreto College, 2nd Prize at Econverge 2024 at Scottish Church College, and 2nd Prize at Confluence XVIII at St. Xavier's College. She presented papers at the 4th and 5th Annual Economics Summit at St. Xavier's University.
- Pragya Goswami (UG6) presented a paper at Ecolore XI 2024 at Loreto College and won 3rd position. She won essay writing at Ecolore XII 2025 at Loreto College and secured 3rd position in Article Writing at Ecopolemics 2025 at Maulana Azad College. She presented a paper at Confluence

XVIII 2025 at St. Xavier's College and wrote articles at Ceteris Paribus 2025 at Lady Brabourne College and YESM 2026 and 2025 at Jadavpur University.

- Additional achievers include Dhritika Ray, Biswarupa Paul, Adrita Samaddar, Taiba Eyasmin, and Jaiti Ghosh, who presented case studies and papers at various prestigious institutions.

Department of English:

- Aryakanya Halder, Chandralekha Ghosal, Zarnab Akter, and Udit Ghosal (UG3 & UG1, Depts of English and Philosophy) won First Prize in Archives on Air at Loreto College on 27th November 2025.
- Chandrima Ghosh and Prajukta Pal (UG6) won First Position in Zee Bangla Didi No 1 organized by Zee Bangla in May 2025.
- Chandrima Ghosh (UG6) published a short story named Kalpana in The LitSoc Magazine of IEST Shibpur in November 2025. She won Second Position in Talent Search Examination on Value Orientation 2025 organized by The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, in May 2025, and First Position in Vidyasagar Smriti Puraskar 2025 Quiz Competition at Vidyasagar College for Women in November 2025. She also won Third Position in World Environment Day Quiz organized by WBPCB at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre in June 2025, Second Position in District Level Speech Competition organized by The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, in September 2025, and Third Position in Speech Recital English Competition organized by Swami Vivekananda's Ancestral House and Cultural Centre in November 2025.
- Writoja Paul (UG3) has been included in the approved list of Yuvavani artists in the Nazrulgeeti and Rabindrasangeet categories by Akashvani, Kolkata, since September 2025.
- Wriddhi Sengupta (UG6) has been included in the approved list of Yuvavani artists in the RajaniKanter Gaan category by Akashvani, Kolkata, since April 2025.
- Swarachita Dasgupta (PG4) presented a paper on "An Ecocritical Study of the Sonnets of Shakespeare" at the conference "Salaam Shakespeare 4.0" organized by Sister Nivedita University on April 23-24, 2025, and completed an NPTEL course on Refugee, Migration and Diaspora in April 2025.
- Sayantika Banerjee, UG 6, Dept of English, presented a paper on "Polyphonic Form and Subaltern in Nabarun Bhattacharya's *Herbert*" in the International Seminar on "Voices from the Margins" organised by Uluberia College in collaboration with Gangadharpur Mahavidyamandir on 20th February, 2026.
- Anushka Saha, UG6, Department of English, co-authored and presented a paper titled "Dystopian Universe: Postapocalyptic and Futuristic Representation of Climate and Nature in Speculative Fiction" at "Second Sunanda Sanyal Memorial National Seminar" organised by the Department of English, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, and co-sponsored by Kalpabiswa Publications, Joydhak Publishers, and The Antonym Collections on March 11-12, 2025
- Moumita Bhattacharjee, UG6, Dept of English co-authored a paper on Sankha Ghosh's 'Rehabilitation', which was published in the Xth volume of the peer reviewed journal of the college, **Heritage** in May 2025.
- Kausumi Dasgupta (UG6) published two poems in Bengali in the books 'Banophul' and 'Somoyer Shabdo Kotha' by Kathakahon Prakashani in January 2026, a short poem in Bhut Sankhya,

Chhotoder Prasad magazine in January 2026, a short Bengali poem in Olotpalot Web-magazine in December 2025, and six poems in Lekhghor Webzine for Children in November and December 2025.

Department of Hindi: Students from the Department of Hindi demonstrated exceptional performance in various competitions:

- **Kavita Collage:** Seven students won positions in this event. Anjali Shaw (UG5) secured Second Position at Shree Shikshayatan College (22nd September 2025) and First Position at Hindi Mela by Sanskritik Punarnirman Mission (December 2025). Astha Gupta, Khushi Prasad, Neha Kumari Shaw, and Nisha Kumari Mahato all secured First Positions in Kavita Collage at Hindi Mela. Itika Kumari Shaw won Third Position in Kavya Poster and Second Position in Kavita Collage at Shree Shikshayatan College, followed by First Position at Hindi Mela. Sanjana Jaiswal won First Position in Creative Writing and Second Position in Kavita Collage at Shree Shikshayatan College. At Hindi Mela (December 2025), she won First Position in Kavita Collage and three Shikhar Saman awards: Satyajit Ray Award in Photography, Mohan Rakesh Award in Drama, and Agyeya Award in Recitation. Neha Kumari Shaw won Best Solo Performance in Kavita Collage at Shree Shikshayatan College.
- **Other Competitions:** Khushi Choubey and Kiran Noniya (UG3) won Third Positions in Extempore at Vidyasagar Smiti Puraskar 2025, Vidyasagar College for Women (19th September 2025). Nandani Rajak (UG3) won First Position in Essay Writing at the same event.

Department of History:

- Ananya Bose (UG5) secured 2nd position in the Photography Competition organized by ICFAI Business School (IBS) Fest BRIO.
- Aisha Salam (UG5) secured 3rd position in the Quiz Competition at the One-day State Level Seminar at Asutosh College on 'Hazards of Plastic'.
- Anindita Sen (UG3) secured 1st position in the Under 170 cm category in Women's Power Lifting at the National Fitness and Nutrition Academy (NFNA).

Department of Philosophy:

- Rupsha Saha (UG 2025) received Shefali Smriti Silver Medal for highest proficiency in Philosophy in BA Semester VI Examination, 2025 in the Annual programme of Alumni Association on 7th March 2026.
- Sulagna Sil and Subhechha Sil (UG6) ranked 6th and 8th respectively among 500 participants in the State Level Marathon held on 5th September 2025, organized by Red Ribbon Club of West Bengal State AIDS Prevention and Control Society, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal.
- Ananya Singha, Nilakhi Paul, Subhechha Sil, and Sulagna Sil (UG6) completed One Day Training on HIV/AIDS and other health-related issues on 12th March 2025, organized by West Bengal State AIDS Prevention and Control Society.

Department of Psychology:

- Shrestha Sanyal (UG1) won 1st Position in the Howrah District Badminton Championship at the District Level (under-19 girls singles category) held from 3rd-5th June 2025 and again from 24th-27th December 2025.
- Khushbu Zaman and Vidhushi Kedia (UG1) won 2nd position at the event Mind your Bid at Samagam, Loreto College, held on 4th December 2025.
- Ritoshree Mukherjee (UG1) won 2nd position in the Basketball event at Samagam, Loreto College, held on 4th & 5th December 2025.

Department of Zoology:

- Arpita Ghosh (UG5) secured 3rd position in WASH Sustainability Quiz EcoQuest at IISWBM and SPM NIWAS on 27th February 2026.

EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS AND FIELD TRIPS

As part of experiential learning, several departments organized educational excursions and field trips throughout the year.

The **Botany** Department conducted an extensive series of field visits throughout the academic year, including a postgraduate excursion to Dooars and Lava from **April 22-27, 2025**, and undergraduate trips to Barrackpore Gandhi Ghat on **June 30, 2025**, and AJC Bose Botanic Garden on **July 15, 2025**. Additional botanical excursions included visits to the Paleobotany Museum and Biodiversity Garden at Kalyani University on **July 15, 2025**, the Fungarium at Ballygunge Science College on **November 26, 2025**, Adya Dairy Farm in Munsirhat on **December 16, 2025**, and Subhash Sarovar on **January 7, 2026**. Students also visited Barasat Government College on January 24, 2026, Rice Research Station in Chinsurah on January 27, 2026, and New Krishi Farm Nursery in Shyamnagar on February 7, 2026.

The **Bengali** Department organized an educational tour to Jorasanko Thakurbari on **November 8, 2025**, with first-year postgraduate students.

20 undergraduate students from the **English** Department, accompanied by four faculty members, visited the Shantipur Cooperative Weavers' Society as part of a field trip on **17th June, 2026**. This visit was conducted as part of the internship programme organized by Tantuja, exposing students to traditional weaving practices and cooperative industry operations. On **27th November, 2025**, 29 students and two faculty members attended a special lecture titled "Collections Connect Us: Shared Legacies between Kolkata and Cambridge" at the Exhibition Space, Indian Museum, Kolkata. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Mark Elliott, Senior Curator in Anthropology at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge. 10 students, one alumna, and one faculty member from the Department attended the 212th Foundation Day celebration at the Indian Museum, Kolkata on **2nd February 2026**. The event featured an academic conclave on "India's Maritime Roots and Global Links: Recent Perspectives," organized in collaboration with the Society of South Asian Archaeology.

The **Philosophy** Department organized an educational trip to Shantiniketan, Bolpur, on **April 6-7, 2025**, with 13 students from Semester VI accompanied by three faculty members, visiting places of interest including Visva Bharati University and the Rajbari of Surul.

The **Psychology** Department conducted a postgraduate excursion to Phulia, Shantipur, on **December 16, 2025**, with three faculty members and 20 students.

The **Chemistry** Department attended a workshop at RamkrishnaVidyamandir College on 28th January, 2026.

The **Zoology** Department organised an excursion to Lataguri forest patch, Batabari tea estate, Gajoldoba wetland and adjacent area from 13th November-15th November 2025 with 32 UG5 students and 3 teachers. The department also visited the Maniktala Fish Market on 22nd August, 2025 with 24 UG2 students and 3 teachers.

STUDENTS' WEEK

Bethune College observed Students' Week from 2nd-7th January 2026 under the guidance of the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal. The event was designed to promote holistic student development through a carefully planned sequence of academic, cultural, health, and nature-based activities, fostering teamwork, creativity, and civic awareness across departments.

The programme was inaugurated on 2nd January by Dr. Rajyasri Roy, Principal of Bethune College, who underscored the importance of holistic education and student well-being. This was followed by a Mental Health Awareness Programme conducted by Dr. Nilanjana Bagchi, Associate Professor & Head, PG Department of Psychology and Convener of the Students' Activity Cell.

On 3rd January, Dr. Rajyasri Roy formally inaugurated the Students' Corner, a dedicated campus space for students to display their ideas and creativity. A Quiz Competition organized by the Quiz Club and cultural competitions were held at Centenary Hall.

On 5th January, a Thalassemia Awareness Programme was organized in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Ganga Heritage under the guidance of Dr. R. Homchaudhuri, complemented by a Health Camp offering basic check-ups and medical guidance. On 6th January, a Students' Awareness Programme on Welfare Schemes of the Government of West Bengal informed students about available scholarships and support initiatives.

The week concluded on 7th January with a Nature Study Walk at Subhas Sarovar and a Photography Competition held within the college campus.

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES

The college actively promotes government schemes including Kanyashree, Swami Vivekananda Merit cum Means Scholarship, and Student Credit Card. The Kanyashree Committee successfully processed 40 applications for K2 scholarships in the previous session. Additionally, 314 students benefitted from the Swami Vivekananda Merit cum Means Scholarship. Furthermore, 28 applications for Aikyashree, 7 OASIS scholarships, and 9 applications under the National Scholarship Portal have been processed.

INTERNSHIPS

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. An Orientation Programme relating to internship opportunities provided by WEBEL was organized on 31st January 2026 for UG1 students.

During the current academic year, students from various departments completed internships at diverse institutions and organizations:

- **Department of English:** 42 UG2 & UG4 students interned at 8 different IPOs including Tantuja, State Archives, All India Kisan Sabha, Rescue and Relief Foundation (NGO), Gandhar, and Setu Publication houses. Sarees designed by some student interns were shown at Innovation Display by Tantuja and sold as part of their Durga Puja collection.
- **Department of Bengali:** 24 UG4 students completed internships at the Central Library of Bethune College, various schools, and blood banks.
- **Department of Botany:** 14 UG4 students completed internships at Vivekananda Institute of Biotechnology, Nimpith, and Lush and Bark Pvt. Ltd., Salt Lake.
- **Department of Philosophy:** 11 UG4 students completed internships at Dasgupta & Co. Pvt. Ltd., Publishers & Booksellers.
- **Department of Political Science:** 35 UG2 & UG4 students interned at C-DRASTA (Centre for Development Research, Sustainability and Technical Advancement), Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee, and AIM (Associated Initiative for Mankind) Foundation.
- **Department of Hindi:** 10 UG4 students completed internships with Sanmarg Network.
- **Department of Psychology:** 70 UG2 & UG4 students completed internships at the Nabajatak Child Development Centre and Apollo Multispeciality Hospitals (NCDC), Kolkata.
- **Department of Sanskrit:** 11 UG2 & UG4 students interned at Srujanee, a multilingual blogging platform powered by Reverie Language Technologies.
- **Department of Mathematics:** 20 UG4 students completed internships at Calcutta Mathematical Society.
- **Department of Computer Science:** 15 UG4 students interned at Indian Statistical Institute, Ardent Computech Pvt. Ltd., and Shine Consultancy.
- **Department of Statistics:** 8 UG4 students completed internships at Indian Association for Productivity, Quality & Reliability.
- **Department of Economics:** 15 UG4 students interned at Praxis Business School.
- **Department of History:** 25 UG2 & UG4 students completed internships at West Bengal State Archives and Sabar Institute.
- **Department of Physics:** 25 UG4 & UG2 students interned at the UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research, Kolkata.
- **Department of Zoology:** 31 UG4 students interned at ECSF (Estuarine and Coastal Studies Foundation).

The internship programme continues to provide students with practical industry exposure that complements their theoretical knowledge and enhances their professional competence.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

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

India celebrates **National Science Day** annually on February 28 to honor Sir C.V. Raman's discovery of the Raman effect in 1928. This year the observation was done by a day long programme. Prof. Amitava Gupta, Department of Power Engineering, JU delivered a talk on 'Towards cleaner mobility and Artificial Intelligence'. The Science day lecture was delivered by Dr. Seemanti Chatterjee, Department of Zoology on the topic "Turning invaders into assets: sustainable uses for invasive species." A quiz contest was organised by the Science and Environment club. This was followed by an orientation to bird watching delivered by the UG Sem 6 students of the Department of Zoology under the guidance of Dr. Srinjana Ghosh. Concepts of avian photography and acquaintance with different birds of Bethune College campus was conducted by Dr. Seemanti Ghosh, Department of Botany.

With encouragement from the Principal, Tuesday Lectures were initiated again by IQAC in March 2026 with Professor Pushpa Misra, Eminent Psychoanalyst and Former Principal of Bethune College delivering the inaugural lecture titled 'Happiness: Is it a Chimera?' on 10th March, 2026.

The IQAC, Bethune College organized an International Seminar titled "Amita Bhowe, from the Great Ganges to Bucharest" on February 27th, 2026. The seminar featured Carmen Coman, a writer, journalist, editor, and Director of Cununi de Stele, Romania, as the resource person. The event provided participants an opportunity to explore the transnational literary and cultural connections between India and Romania through the life and work of Amita Bhowe.

On 17th December, 2025, IQAC, Bethune College organized an Orientation Session on the IBM Skills Build Platform, delivered by Ms. Rishika Sunnapu, Senior Engagement Associate at CSRBOX. The session aimed to familiarize students with this professional development platform, providing them access to industry-relevant courses and certifications to enhance their employability and technical skills.

The IQAC and Department of Bengali, Bethune College, in collaboration with Paschimbanga Kazi Nazrul Islam Academy, I & CA Department, Government of West Bengal, organized a Demonstration Lecture on Kazi Nazrul Islam on August 19, 2025. The session provided students with in-depth insights into the life, literary contributions, and revolutionary spirit of the rebel poet, enriching their understanding of Bengali literature and the cultural heritage of Bengal.

The IQAC organised an awareness seminar on Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) and Lifestyle Modification for a Healthy Life on July 23, 2025, at Centenary Hall. The seminar was delivered by Dr. Pritha Bhattacharjee, Associate Professor, Environmental Epigenomics Laboratory, Department of Environmental Science, University of Calcutta

SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME

IC-Internal Committee of Bethune College, in collaboration with IQAC, Women's Studies Centre and Gender Sensitization Cell organised a sensitization programme on sexual harassment. The programme was held on Friday, 5th December 2025, from 2pm to 4pm at College auditorium. Dr. Mononita Kundu Das (St. Xavier's University) and Dr. Subarna Mondal (Sanskrit College and University) delivered lectures on

'Creating a culture of consent and respect'. The programme was a successful event with active participation of students and teachers. This year three of our students were declared 'gender champions'. Posters and banners were circulated in the college premises to alert everyone about gender violation. There were no incident or complaint reported this year to Internal committee

HUMAN RIGHTS CELL

The Human Rights Cell, Bethune College celebrated the International Human Rights Day on 10.12.2026 with a number of activities. Principal Madam inaugurated the programme with a speech outlining the significance of the day. As the college was organising the Annual Fest during that time, Human Rights was selected as the theme of some of the events of the competition like creative writing and Face painting. Through all these efforts the students of Bethune College showcased their understanding of the significance of Human Rights

DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS

The Postgraduate Department of **Botany** organized a National Seminar on "Unraveling the Mysteries of Plant Science" on November 13-14, 2025, sponsored by the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal, featuring distinguished speakers including Dr. Debasis Chakrabarty from the National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, Prof. Rita Kundu from the University of Calcutta, and Dr. Ayan Das from Presidency University. The department also organised the 8th Sanghamitra Sanyal Memorial Lecture on November 4, 2025, featuring Dr. Anindya Biswas from Visva Bharati University speaking on "Environmental Signal: A Molecular Switch for Plant Pathogenic Bacteria." A career counseling seminar titled "Our Students: Scaling New Heights" was held on May 5, 2025, with Ms. Aparna Bhattacharya, Consumer Welfare Officer, as the resource person.

The 2nd Departmental Reunion of the Botany Dept "Roots and Shoots" was organised on 6th December, 2025.

The **Bengali** Department hosted a career counselling seminar titled "Career After Graduation: How to Prepare for NET-JRF on August 7, 2025, featuring Sreyasi Ray, Junior Research Fellow from the Department of Bengali, University of Calcutta. The department also organized a students' seminar on 15th September 2025 on the theme "Bengal's Culture : Multifaceted Perspectives." A special lecture on "The History of Hindi Literature" on 27 th November, 2025 for UG Sem-5 students, delivered by Dr. Ranjana Sharma, Associate Professor, Department of Hindi, Bethune College was also organised by the department.

The PG Department of **English** organised the **3rd Prof. Shanta Mahalanobis Memorial Lecture** on December 16, 2025 with Dr. Anushila Hazra Bhattacharya, former Officer-in-charge of Bethune College and former Head of the Department as the Resource Person. Dr. Bhattacharya spoke on "Yeats's World of Symbols." The department organised a lecture on "What Happens to the Heart: Organ Donation and Trafficking in Anand Gandhi's 'The Ship of Theseus'" on November 25, 2025 with Dr. Mandira Mitra, Assistant Professor of English, Taki Government College as the speaker. The department also organised Invited Lectures for the postgraduate students. Professor Himadri Lahiri spoke on Pope's *Essay on Criticism* on 15/12/2025, Dr Mandira Mitra discussed R L Stevenson's *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* on

10/01/2026 and Dr Neelanjana Basu spoke on J.M.Synge's *The Playboy of the Western World*, on 16/05/2025 and Bram Stoker's *Dracula* on 17/01/2026.

A Book Reading Session with acclaimed author Ms. Amrita Mukherjee conducted by Mary Mukherjee was organised by the department on March 19, 2025 in collaboration with the Times of India Group. The department organized a seminar on "Sex Workers, Migrants, Citizens: The Making of Kallolini Kolkata" in collaboration with Calcutta Research Group on March 18, 2025. Prof. Paula Banerjee from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, and CRG delivered the lecture, examining themes of migration, citizenship, and marginalized communities in the context of Kolkata. The department also organised a Students' Seminar for UG2&UG4 students on "English Prose from the Elizabethan to Modern Age" on 12th September, 2025.

The **History** Department organised a Special Lecture on Understanding Cultural Heritage and Tourism with Dr. Biswanath Bandyopadhyay, Associate Teacher (Retd.), WBES as resource person on 11.07.2025. On 12.7.2025, the department also organised a Special Lecture on Understanding Cultural Heritage and Tourism in which Dr. Sangita Kar, Independent Researcher was the speaker. Another Special Lecture on Popular Culture of Bengal by Dr. Gouranga Dandapat, Assistant Professor, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Government College, on 05.02.2026 was organised by the department. A film show, Subarnarekha by Ritwik Ghatak, followed by a discussion conducted by Ms. Sanghamitra Chattopadhyay, Assistant Teacher, Cossipore St. Ninian's High School for Girls, Kolkata was held on 18th February, 2026.

The **Philosophy** Department, in association with IQAC, organized a seminar on May 26, 2025, titled "Beyond Selfhood: Tagore's Philosophy of Human Remaking," delivered by Dr. Pralayankar Bhattacharya, Associate Professor from the University of Calcutta.

On 21st November, 2025, the **Physics** Department organised the 10th Ananta Kumar Sarker & Snehalata Sarker Memorial One Day Seminar for The Advancement of The Knowledge in Physics on Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose: Boundless Vision of a Trailblazing Scientist and The Mysterious Magnetic Personality of our Sun. Resource Persons were Dr. Banasri Basu, Professor, Department of Physics, Indian Statistical Institute Dr. Arnab Rai Choudhuri, Professor, Department of Physics, IISc, Bengaluru

The department also organised the 14th Chameli Basu Memorial Lecture on "Do Cells Think" on 15th December, 2025 in which Dr. Ushasi Roy, Inspire Faculty Fellow, Department of Physics, IISER Pune was the Resource Person. The Departmental Re-Union was also held on the same day.

The **Political Science** Department conducted a seminar on March 26, 2025, examining "Understanding the Legal System in India: A Critical Analysis of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023," with Dr. Namrata Kothari, Secretary of The West Bengal Council of Rabindra Open Schooling, as the speaker.

The **Psychology** Department organized two seminars under the theme "In Search of Wellbeing." The first, "Mental Health 101: Spot, Regulate, Cope," was held on September 4, 2025, with clinical psychologists Husena Dhariwala and Apurva Jain from Mind's Treasure, sponsored by Sayantani Adhikary Foundation. The second seminar, "Mental Health Kit: Promoting Mental Health through Skills," took place on December 9, 2025, featuring Dr. Sreemoyee Tarafder, Clinical Psychologist and Assistant Professor from West Bengal State University, also sponsored by Sayantani Adhikary Foundation.

The Department of **Statistics** organised a students' seminar on 8th September, 2025 for UG2 students on Artificial Intelligence in healthcare, Regression Analysis and the Impact of screen time on study hours.

On 11th June, 2025, the PG Department of **Zoology** organised a seminar on Applications of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Addressing Environmental Challenges with Dr. Pratyush Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Chandernagore College as Resource Person.

STUDENT WELFARE AND GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

Anti Ragging Committee: In accordance with UGC guidelines, Anti-Ragging declarations were collected from all students and their parents/guardians at the commencement of the academic session 2025-26. Sensitization programmes were organized for newly admitted students and hostel residents. On 20th August 2025, posters carrying anti-ragging messages were prominently displayed across the college premises and were distributed in classrooms. On 26th April 2025, a seminar entitled 'Creating a Safe and Supportive Environment: Strategies for Promoting Wellness' was organized by the Anti-Ragging Committee and Women's Studies Centre in collaboration with IQAC in which keynote speaker was Dr. Susmita Halder, Professor, Department of Psychology and Dean, Arts and Social Studies, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata.

Grievance Redressal System: The college has a robust grievance redressal system. **The Students' Grievance Redressal Committee** (SGRC) operates in accordance with UGC Guidelines, providing an online portal for students to submit complaints. The **Internal Committee** (IC) has been established to address complaints related to sexual harassment. Additionally, a **Disciplinary and Grievance Cell** functions to address general student grievances.

Equal Opportunity Cell: "Equal Opportunity Cell", Bethune College, with the Principal as Chairperson, is a new facility launched to ensure inclusivity, welcome diversity and help all stakeholders connect as a community with a vision to provide a safe space to accommodate heterogeneity. It is working to create an ambience of hope and belongingness. The Cell started functioning with an interactive session "From Equality to Equity: Unlocking Inclusive Opportunities" on 21.02.2026 with Dr. Vishnupriya Sengupta as Resource person.

WOMEN'S STUDIES CENTRE

The Women's Studies Centre at Bethune College advanced gender equity through campus programming, community outreach, and field research throughout the previous session.

In April 2025, the Centre organized a yoga and wellness programme tailored to women's health needs, combining strength-building, flexibility, stress management, and mantras to connect physical practice with spiritual well-being. On 30 July 2025, in collaboration with local NGO Abhinna, staff members purchased pizzas and cookies made by women from correctional facilities as part of their reintegration programme, creating direct market access and economic support while challenging stigma around formerly incarcerated women. On 8 August 2025, the Centre reimagined Raksha Bandhan as a festival of mutual respect and solidarity. Teachers visited Burtolla Police Station to tie rakhis to personnel of all genders, while within the college, students and teachers exchanged rakhis across gender lines. Students also extended the gesture to underprivileged children in the wider community.

On 7 September 2025, Dr. Nilanjana Bagchi, Coordinator, WSC, and Prof. Sumita Mukhopadhyay visited Baikunthapur and Mundapara in the Sundarbans to study the socio-economic conditions of "tiger widows"—women who have lost husbands to tiger attacks. The visit found women increasingly taking up

fishing, crab hunting, and pickle-making for livelihoods. The WSC identified the site as significant for further research and potential intervention. On 19 September 2025, in partnership with the NSS unit, the Centre distributed sarees to women from marginalised communities in the Goabagan area ahead of Durga Puja.

On 4 November 2025, the WSC and NSS unit distributed school bags and educational materials to 30 children in Sonagachi. On 5 December 2025, the Centre co-organized a programme on “Creating a Culture of Consent and Respect” with the Internal Committee, IQAC, and Gender Sensitization Cell. The session featured resource persons Dr. Mononita Kundu Das (St. Xavier’s University) and Dr. Subarna Mondal (Sanskrit College and University), covering workplace harassment, bystander intervention, and survivor support frameworks.

In commemoration of International Women's Day 2026, the Women's Studies Centre and the Students' Activity Cell (SAC) jointly organised a Photography Competition in online mode from 2nd to 8th March, themed 'Give to Gain', inviting participants to submit photographs that engaged meaningfully with the stated theme. On 6th March, the Women's Studies Centre and the Students' Activity Cell jointly organised a Poster Competition on the theme 'Breaking Barriers'. On 9th March, the Women's Studies Centre and the Department of Women's Studies, in collaboration with the Child in Need Institute (CINI), organised an Awareness Programme on 'Gender, Sex and Sexuality', with a view to generating informed dialogue on issues of gender identity and sexuality among students and members of the college community.

ETHICS AND VALUE EDUCATION COURSE

The Ethics & Value Education Course is a thirty-hour certificate programme offered under the aegis of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Bethune College, running since 2020. Designed for undergraduate students of Semesters I and II, the course fosters awareness of social responsibilities and moral values through theoretical understanding and practical engagement.

The IQAC and Ethics & Value Education Committee organized a visit to the Sister Nivedita Heritage Museum and Knowledge Centre at Baghbazar, Kolkata, conducted in two phases due to large student enrolment. The first phase took place from 20 to 22 March 2025, and the second phase was held from 4–5 April and 11–12 April 2025.

On 29 April 2025, a civic awareness programme on road safety and ethical conduct in public spaces was organized in collaboration with the NSS Unit and Ultadanga Traffic Guard, Kolkata. The session engaged students in understanding their responsibilities as citizens and pedestrians. On 23 July 2025, a seminar on animal ethics was held. Dr. P. Banerjee, Master of Veterinary Science and District Executive Officer, delivered a lecture titled ‘Respecting Animal Lives: Beyond Utility and Coexistence’, exploring the moral status of animals and advocating for a compassionate, rights-based understanding of human–animal relationships.

Students’ presentations were held on 8 and 9 January 2026. Students from each department jointly worked on chosen topics, submitted dissertation papers, and representative students presented their work before the Ethics & Value Education Committee and designated evaluators.

The 2024–25 batch formally concluded their course on 16 February 2026 with an online MCQ examination accompanied by a structured feedback exercise. A total of 287 students appeared for the examination, successfully completing all course requirements.

The academic session 2025–26 commenced with an enrolment of 316 students and was formally inaugurated on 30 January 2026 with a lecture delivered by Dr. Rajyasri Roy, Principal, Bethune College. Her address underscored the importance of ethics and values in contemporary education and public life.

On 6 February 2026, Dr. Bhumika Kanjilal, Associate Professor, Dept of Philosophy, delivered a lecture on ‘Validating the Relation of Good and Eudaimonia in Aristotle’s Moral Theory’, offering students a foundational introduction to Aristotelian ethics and exploring the concept of eudaimonia, often translated as flourishing or well-being, and its relationship to the notion of the good.

WEBEL: Since 2006-07 WBEIDC–WIL division in collaboration with Bethune College offers an on-campus certificate diploma course in Computer Application. In the academic session 2025-2026 this course was modified to suit the CCF curriculum. It is now a 1 year/ 80hrs course, and 95 students have enrolled for it in the session 2025-2026.

LIBRARY: The Bethune College Library houses a collection of approximately 1,02,100 books and journals, including rare and priceless volumes. The library provides access to scholarly journals through a subscription to ONOS. A WEB-OPAC online catalogue browsing service is accessible through the institutional website.

During the previous academic session, the library implemented several infrastructural improvements: a Digital Attendance System, RFID Book Drop Box, RFID Hand Held Reader with software, and a Smart Card Printer. Under the "Gyandhara Prakalpa" initiative, P.C. Chandra Group provided financial assistance of Rs. 2,00,000 for preservation of rare collections. This enabled the purchase of an Overhead Digital Scanner, desktop computer with accessories, and 1TB hard disk. Scanning, laminating, and binding of rare books has commenced.

The library also conducted a 15-day internship programme for twenty students from various semesters, providing practical training in library operations and management.

ADMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

UG Admission for the session 2025-26 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 14493 applications were received for 678 (350 BA+328 BSc) seats in 18 courses (B.A. – 09. B.Sc. – 09). Altogether 316 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.

- Ten faculty members submitted their CAS files recently for promotion to different stages. Following scrutiny at multiple levels, the files were placed for approval in an IQAC meeting held on 27th January 2026. A letter has presently been sent to the Higher Education Department requesting the name of the DPI nominee.

● 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 (SAC)

The Students' Activity Cell, in collaboration with various clubs, conducted numerous activities throughout the year. The Students' Activity Cell and Bethune College Students' Committee organized Intra College Competitions on 8th and 10th December 2025, comprising 19 competitions. *The Department of English was declared the "Champion Department."*

Club Activities

Quiz Club: Members participated in several inter-college competitions, winning the Didi No 1 College vs College episode on Zee Bangla (6th June 2025) and securing Third Position in the World Environment Day Quiz organized by WBPCB. The club organized various intra-college competitions.

Cultural Club: Students participated in an Antakshari competition organized by Kolkata Doordarshan, telecast on 19th June and 28th August 2025, and participated in various cultural programmes organized in the college.

Literary Club: The club promoted creative writing and literary expression through various activities. An Intra-College Creative Writing Competition was held on 10th December 2025. Winners represented the college at Aalap'25 Inter-College Competition on 19th December 2025.

Debate Club: Members secured top positions in multiple debate, extempore, and MUN competitions organized by reputed institutions. The club coordinated intra and inter-college debate competition "Verba Arma" for Aalap.

Science and Environment Club: The club promoted scientific inquiry and environmental awareness, assisted in organizing National Science Day celebration, organized the intra-college competition "Theory in Practice," and secured Third Position at the Eco-Quest Quiz Competition on 27th February 2026.

Film Club: During Intra College Competitions on 9th December 2025, the club conducted Dumb Charades and Film Poster Redesigning. An Inter-College Film Poster Redesigning Competition was organized during Aalap'25.

Photography Club: The club documented major college events and organized Environment Day Photography Competition (2025) and both intra-college and inter-college photography contests.

Drama Club: The club won First Prize in the Aalap'25 Inter-College Street Play Competition on 13th December 2025 with their production "HAMARI AWAZ—Shout out what seems wrong." The club also organized an Intra-College Monologue Competition in 2025.

Art and Craft Club: The Art and Craft Club conducted several activities during the 2025 session aimed at fostering creativity and student participation. The club organised a free workshop in collaboration with

Pidilite, where students learned creative techniques using various craft materials. On World Environment Day, a joint demonstration with the NSS unit was held to promote environmental awareness through art.

The club also organised inter-college competitions — T-shirt Painting, Best Out of Waste, and Movie Poster Redesigning — and collaborated with the Film Club during Aalap 2025 for a Movie Poster Designing event, which received enthusiastic participation. Club members additionally contributed to the decoration of the annual fest, enhancing the overall ambience of the venue.

Career Counselling Cell The Career Counselling Cell serves as the institutional bridge between undergraduate and postgraduate students and the professional world, equipping them with knowledge, skills, and exposure for informed career choices in today's competitive employment landscape. Last session's activities range from pre-placement sessions and skill-development courses to seminars, job fairs, and inter-departmental collaborations.

On 20 November 2025, the Cell organized a Pre-Placement Connect session with Cognizant for the graduating batch of 2026, with the online meeting held on 21 November 2025 from 3:30 to 4:30 PM. The session covered the company's hiring process, organizational culture, recruitment timelines, and career prospects, with particular emphasis on the Technical Writer role relevant for students from humanities and science backgrounds.

On 27 November 2025, the Cell shared information about IIT Madras Pravartak's Free Entrepreneurship Development Training Programme for undergraduate and postgraduate students. The programme featured four hours of live online sessions (6:00–8:00 PM) starting 9 December 2025, with optional certification available at ₹499, focusing on creativity, problem-solving, innovation, and startup skills essential in today's rapidly evolving job market.

On 15 December 2025, the Cell collaborated with the Department of Physics for the Chameli Basu Memorial Lecture, an interdisciplinary initiative highlighting career prospects and higher education opportunities in Physics, underscoring the Cell's commitment to working across academic departments.

On 10 and 18 February 2026, the Cell facilitated student participation in the Loreto College Job Fair held on the Loreto College campus. The event provided students with opportunities for direct interaction with company representatives, insight into hiring processes, and guidance on CV development.

On 17 February 2026, the Cell collaborated with IQAC and the Department of Political Science to host a session on the Gandhi Fellowship offered by Piramal Foundation. The session introduced students to social sector career pathways and leadership programmes.

A campus recruitment drive by ABP Digital is scheduled for March 2026, focusing on Graduate Trainee positions for students from the Departments of English, Bengali, History, Economics, and other relevant disciplines. This initiative represents an important opportunity for final-year humanities students to explore careers in digital journalism, content creation, and media management.

NSS

The NSS unit of Bethune College continued its tradition of service-driven learning in 2025-26, engaging volunteers across academic, environmental, health, and community domains. Twelve volunteers received the Best Volunteer Award at the Annual Prize Day, 2025. Program Officer Dr. Sritama Mukherjee attended the NSS Convention at JLN Stadium, New Delhi (April 25–26, 2025). Ms. Chandrima Ghosh, UG3, Dept of English, represented West Bengal at ICONYOUTH 2025 in Mangalore and won second place in an Elocution competition at Scottish Church College. Ms. Sulagna Sil and Ms. Subheccha Sil, students UG6 of Dept of Philosophy, placed sixth and eighth at the State Level Red Ribbon Marathon (September 5, 2025), and Ms. Avipsita Basu, UG3, Botany Dept, reached the Leadership Assessment round of VBYLD'2026 at Visva Bharati University.

The Special Camp (February 20–26, 2025) at the adopted slum Goabagan featured health camps, yoga and mental health sessions, handicraft workshops for children, an eye check-up camp with Hindol and Sushrut, a wetland conservation visit to East Kolkata Wetland, and a closing traffic awareness drive at Hedua Crossing with Ultadanga Traffic Guard.

Environmental activities included World Environment Day (June 5) with 47 saplings planted and an Amrit Vatika created; International Day of Biological Diversity (May 22) with campus biodiversity talks and 10 plants added to the medicinal garden; Vanmahotsav (July 29) in collaboration with the Department of Botany, IQAC, and Rotary Club of Suncity, distributing 70 saplings under the Ek Per Ma K Naam initiative; and International Day of Yoga (June 19) with asana demonstrations by Physics faculty.

Health awareness was sustained through a free health camp at Goabagan (June 14) with Hindol Welfare Society serving 70 residents; a Thalassemia awareness session with Rotary Club of Ganga Heritage District 3291 and follow-up health camp (January 5, 2026); and World AIDS Day (December 3) marked by faculty addresses, student-led discussions, a Human Chain pledge, and poster campaigns. Eleven volunteers also completed a one-day TOT for RRC Peer Educators at Swasthya Bhavan (March 12, 2025).

A landmark initiative was the Experiential Learning Program on I4C Cybersecurity (June 16–July 26, 2025) through the My Bharat Portal. Ten volunteers from four colleges completed 120 hours of offline training with the Cybercrime Department, Lalbazar, and H&R (India) Pvt. Ltd., then led community awareness drives in Bidhan Sarani, Beadon Street, Goabagan, and at Amra Padatik.

Community outreach included NSS Day (November 4) with donations of school bags and supplies to 30 children of the Sovabazar red light area; flood relief of 14 bags of clothes and 59 new sarees for North Bengal survivors (November 17); a Saree-cum-Book Fair at Goabagan before Durga Puja (September 20) with a wheelchair gifted to Swikriti Sangha Club; and Rakshabandhan (August 8) observed with the Women's Studies Centre as a gesture of solidarity. A Nature Study at Subhash Sarobar Park was jointly organised with the Students' Activity Cell and Botany and Zoology departments (January 7, 2026).

Special events at the college included a 100m race for Jorabagan slum children on Annual Sports Day (December 12); a dance performance and eco-friendly stall by volunteers at the college fest AALAP (December 19); and observation of 150 years of Vandemataram. The Swachhta Hi Seva drive on September 20, 2025, covered cleaning and sanitisation of the entire college premises.

Other awareness programs included a Street Ethics session with Ultadanga Traffic Guard (April 29), a Consumer Protection Act 2019 workshop with the State Consumer Affairs Department (July 29), a seminar on Health and Environment at Golpark Ramkrishna Mission (June 28), and a malnutrition and hygiene

outreach at Abdalpur, Madhyamgram, with Love Without Boundaries Foundation (May 25). An Orientation Program for new Sem-1 volunteers introduced the My Bharat Portal and experiential learning pathways.

Across all these activities, the unit upheld its founding spirit — *Not me but you*.

COLLEGE EVENTS

Bethune College has a rich tradition of celebrating different cultural programmes throughout the year. Every year, the Cultural Committee along with the Student's Activity Cell of the college celebrate theme-based programmes on Annual Prize Day, Rabindra Jayanti, Bethune Day, Republic Day, Independence Day and International Mother Language Day. Cultural programmes are organised focussing on contemporary socio-economic issues which have a message to humanity at large.

On the occasion of the **Annual Prize Day** held on 11th March 2025, the students of the college enacted the drama *Sondorboner Durga* after the prize distribution ceremony. It was based on women empowerment and the hardships of the wives of the tiger victims in Sundarban region. On 7th May 2025, **Rabindra Jayanti** was observed by the college with enthusiastic participation of students. '*Sesh Raaginir Bin*' a musical ensemble based on the poems of *Purabi* was staged especially to commemorate the centenary of the publication of *Purabi*.

Bethune Day

Bethune Day was celebrated on 12 August 2025 to honour Sir John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune, whose vision transformed women's education in Bengal. The day began with a floral tribute at his cemetery, led by the Honourable Principal and faculty along with students, followed by a visit to Bethune Collegiate School.

The programme was inaugurated through the lighting of the lamp and the planting of saplings, marking the spirit of Banmahotsab. A handicraft exhibition of goods made by students was also held on the occasion. The Bethune Day Lecture was delivered by Chief Guest Dr. Rohini Dharmapal, Assistant Professor in Education at Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Vivekananda Vidyabhavan Girls' College, Dumdum, on the theme *Women and Nature*. Smt. Indrani Bhattacharya, WBCS (Exe), District Panchayat and Rural Development Officer, Howrah, was felicitated as an Eminent Alumna of the college.

The programme concluded with a cultural performance by students, centred on ecology and environmental conservation, which was widely appreciated.

Independence Day and Republic Day were observed in the College premises on 15.8.25 and 26.1.2026. Students participated in march past and drill followed by a short cultural programme.

An **Orientation Programme** was organised for newly admitted first semester students on September 10, 2025. The event featured addresses from several key institutional representatives, including the Principal, the IQAC Coordinator, Teachers' Council Secretary, Convener of the Students' Activity and Career Counselling Cell, Admission Committee Convener, CCF Convener, along with other distinguished faculty members. There was also a presentation by BCSC. 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.

- Teachers' Day was celebrated by students of all departments.

AALAP, the annual cultural fest of Bethune College, was held on 19th December 2025. The fest was inaugurated with Senco Gold & Diamonds as the Title Sponsor, Banarasi Niketan as the Stage Sponsor, Sebayan Nursing Home as the Health Sponsor, and SPAIG Laboratories as the General Sponsor and support from 91.9 Friends FM, Edugraph, Sayantani Adhikary Foundation, Braindrops and others.

On-stage events included Divya Gandhar (Indian Vocal Solo), Symphony (Western Vocal Solo), Jhankar (Indian Dance Solo), Rhythm Clash (Group Choreography), and Virasat in Vogue (Indo-futurism Theme Walk). Off-stage events comprised Inquizitive (Quiz), Verba Arma (Debate), Drishti (Photography), Kathacanvas (Creative Writing), Flash Frame (Movie Poster Redesigning), Lettuce Guacamole Bacon and Tomato Quesadilla (Pride Open Mic), and Hamari Aawaz (Street Play Competition).

The fest featured 23 pop-up stalls, 38 kiosks, 8 food stalls, and 9 food kiosks. The event concluded with a performance by Bhoomi Band.

SPORTS: The Annual Sports of Bethune College was held on 11th and 12th December 2025, with Ms. Dipali Sinha, an eminent mountaineer, as the guest of honour. The track and field events were preceded by a Badminton doubles tournament held between 8th and 10th December 2025 and a friendly women's cricket match between teams comprising students and teachers. Over 100 students participated in various sports events throughout the week.

Athletics events included 100m and 200m flat races, long jump, shot put, skipping, and 400m relay race, along with spoon and marble races. Shibasini Tudu of Semester 5, Department of Bengali, was declared the College Champion. Students have also participated in inter-college badminton and basketball tournaments during the year. College representatives participated in the District level sports meet organized by the Educational Directorate, Government of West Bengal.

- International Mother Language Day, Bhasha Dibas was celebrated on 21/2/2026 with students from Departments of English, Hindi, Bengali, History and Sanskrit sharing their experiences with languages.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION: SAMMILANI

The Alumni Association of Bethune College remains actively engaged with the institution through various initiatives. The Alumni Reunion of Bethune College Sammilani was held on 7th March, 2026. The Mrinalini Emerson Memorial Lecture was delivered by Jawhar Sircar, former Member of Rajya Sabha, on 6th September, 2025, on the topic "Rammohun Roy's Thoughts on Women." The Sammilani organized a lecture series to celebrate the Birth Centenary of the Freedom Fighter Bethunite Ila Mitra. The first session was held on Saturday, 17th January 2026, featuring lectures on Ila Mitra by Srabashi Basu and on Jyotirmoyee Ganguli by Dipanwita Ganguli. The Association also organized Biki-Kini r Hat (handicraft market), a fair showcasing handmade sustainable items by alumni and present students, on Saturday, 30th August 2025.

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 Ritwik Ghatak, Jane Austen and others was formally published on 7th May 2025.

The Xth volume (2023) of the peer reviewed journal of the college **Heritage** was published on 30th May, 2025. The XIth volume (2024) will be published today, on Annual Prize Day, 14th March, 2026.

It is a matter of great pride that Chandana Paul, St Xavier's College, Kolkata successfully completed her PhD under the able supervision of Dr Nirmalendu Das, Associate Professor and Head, Dept of Botany.

Dr Bhumika Kanjilal, Associate Professor, Dept of Philosophy is the Co-Investigator in a project sponsored by ICSSR. She has completed her SMILE_PH method certification with Honours of Philosophical Health International supervised by Luis de Miranda, PhD. Founder and President of Philosophical Health International. She is listed as a Certified Practitioner under PHI (Philosophical Health International). <https://www.philosophical.health/certified-practitioners>

Soumya Chakraborty, Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics was awarded the PhD degree by ISI in February, 2026.

The faculty members have demonstrated significant scholarly contributions through their publications. Dr. Anindita Datta, of the Bengali Department, authored "Atmonader Rojnamcha," a diary published by Dhansiri in January 2026. Dr. Anwasha Khan published two notable books: "Rabindranather Engreji Sahityer Itihas" (ISBN: 978-93-48799-01-2) published by Aashadeep, Kolkata, and "Bideshi Songe Anusange Rabindranath" (ISBN: 978-93-47919-56-5) published by Bangiya Sahitya Sansad, both released in January 2026. Dr Dipyaman Pal, Economics Dept, co-authored "Performance Analysis of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry: A Global Outlook", Emerald Publishing Limited, Bingley, UK in 2025 (ISBN: 978-1-83797-744-4). Dr Pal also jointly edited "Gender (In)equality and Social Development - Issues of Health, Education, Environment and Other SDG Implications" (Hardcover ISBN: 978-981-96-7978-2), published by Springer Singapore in October 2025.

Dr Rajat Jyoti Sarkar, Economics Dept co-edited "Empirical Essays in Development Economics Focusing on Indian Economy: A Volume In Honour of Prof. Maniklal Adhikary," published by New Delhi Publishers (ISBN 978-93-48120-12-0). From the Hindi Department, Dr. Namita Jaiswal authored "Ling Bhed ke Anuttrit Prashn," published by Anand Prakashan in November 2025 (ISBN: 978-93-93378-97-2).

Nirmalendu Das, Amalendu Ghosh, Lokenath Ganguly, Krishanu Naskar, Abhishek Dey, Debaditya Raychaudhuri, Tapas Kr Misra, Suchandra Chowdhury, Sutapa Dutta, Dipanwita Sarkar Paria, Jana Chakrabarti, Srinjana Ghosh, Manjari Ghosh, Anwasha Khan, Nilanjana Bagchi, Debadeepa Banerjee, Debanjana Basu, Amrita Bagchi, Ishani Chowdhury, Soumya Chakraborty, Amrita Ghosal, Shrandhanjali

Singh also contributed chapters and reviews in reputed journals and books. Jana Chakrabarti, Smita Ray, Amrita Bagchi, Soumya Chakraborty and Srinjana Ghosh, Madhubanti Bhui, Amrita Ghosal presented papers in various international and national level seminars throughout the year.

Sumita Mukhopadhyay was the resource person at a webinar organised by Women's History Conclave on 26 October, 2025. Anwesha Khan was the resource person at a seminar– “Chirantan Aalo : Kaji Najrul Islam” organized by Kaji Najrul Islam Academy in collaboration with Bethune College on 19.08. 2025.

Nilanjana Bagchi chaired a session in the 2-day International Conference on Digital Humanities: New Era Education on 8-9 August 2025, held at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. She was also the resource person on topic Suicide Prevention in Golden Jubilee Celebration of The HMAI XIII All India Homoeopathic Congress and Homoeo Expo 2025 at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre on 27.12.2025. She delivered a lecture on "PTSD" at Legal Aid Services (WB) on 20.12.2025 as part of the Post Graduate Diploma Course in Counselling. She served as resource person in a workshop on Psychology organized by Organon of Medicine and West Bengal University of Health Sciences (WBUHS) on 24.7.2025, on Personality Development. She delivered a lecture on "Personality" at Legal Aid Services (WB) on 26.7.2025 in the Post Graduate Diploma Course in Counselling. She served as resource person in a workshop titled "Career Path in Psychology Beyond Clinical Practice" held on 3.8.2025, organized by Jadavpur University TalkClub.

Madhubanti Bhui acted as Chairperson of a business session on 26th September 2025, in Two-Day International Conference (Virtual) on Imagining Futures organized by New Literaria: An International Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities, in collaboration with the School of Languages and Literature and the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Cell, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Jammu&Kashmir, India along with the Department of History, Humanities and Society, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy.

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

The college bid farewell to the former Officer-in-charge and Associate Professor of English, Dr Anushila Hazra Bhattacharya in May, 2025 and Dr Debjani Sinha Roy, Associate Professor of Botany in July, 2025. Smt Anjali Maisal, Librarian retired from service in October, 2025.

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.