

## **ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

### **Behala Utsab Foundation, West Bengal (Constituent Branch)**

In order to bring awareness among the population, the Branch came up with the idea of organizing Thalassemia screening and Awareness camps. On 18 August, 2022, one camp was held at Gournagar Higher secondary school, wherein a total 89 samples were taken, out of which 05 children turned out to be Thalassemia carriers. A second camp was held at Thakurpukur Brahmachari P.K Vidyamandir school for Girls on 21 September, 2022. Total 79 samples were taken, out of which a large number turned out Thalassemia carriers.



The students who were thalassemia carriers, along with their parents were called for counselling at the school premises in the presence of their teachers. The Counsellor assured them that thalassemia carriers never experienced any health problem. Parents and guardians were told about the difference between Thalassemia patient and Thalassemia carrier. The families belongs to low-income groups and their education and awareness are very poor. They were also made aware of the fact that communities with practices of marriage within the close families are more prone to thalassemia. It was felt that more awareness and tests are required in society to break the taboo and detection of thalassemia, and Students are the best medium to convey the messages to their parents, family members, friends, relatives and acquaintances.