



**The Planning Forum**  
**Society Report 2021-2022**

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**About the society:** The Planning Forum was established in 1960 at the behest of the first Prime Minister of the country, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and remains to be one of the largest student-run societies on the college campus.

As a society, we strive towards cultivating a platform for students to engage in matters related to public policy. We encourage students to critically analyse problems from a global perspective and to frame pragmatic solutions through discussions, conferences, simulations, debates and many other forms of engagement. Our vision is to build a space of learning and mutual respect where like-minded students can meet, interact and take the first step towards becoming the leaders of the next generation.

S.No.	Title of the Event	Event Details
1	Inaugural Lecture by Dr. Jayati Ghosh	<p>The academic year commenced with an inaugural lecture by Dr. Jayati Ghosh, the prize-winning development economist from the University of Massachusetts, USA. She has served on the Advisory Council to the Indian Prime Minister and is currently a member of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Economic and Social Affairs. The lecture was on the topic '<b>Care Economy and The Pandemic</b>' which provided the student community insights into the prevalence of the large unpaid care economy in India. Around 90 participants attended the session.</p> <p>Mode of event: Online Date(s) of the event: 4th September 2021</p>

2	Policy Conclave	<p>The three-day annual policy-based mini-fest of the society engaged policy enthusiasts with lectures and competitions. The new and innovative events brought huge participation from across the country and are listed below.</p> <p>Mode of event: Online Date(s) of the event: 28th October - 30th October 2021</p>
2.1	Keynote Address	<p>Speaking on the topic '<b>The Making of a New Indian Diplomacy</b>', Mr. Kanwal Sibal, the former Foreign Secretary of India and Padma Shri awardee, provided great insights to the student community about India's evolving diplomatic ties and foreign policy. About 60 participants attended the lecture.</p> <p>Mode of event: Online Date(s) of the event: 28th October 2021</p>
2.2	Case Crunch: A Case Study Competition	<p>The case study competition took participants through simulations of various real-life issues and required them to formulate policies to tackle it. The event was held in two rounds- the prelims and the finals- and contained similar problem-solving based cases prepared by members of The Planning Forum. The final round witnessed the top teams compete for the first place.</p> <p>Judges: Mr. Abhishek Jain, Ms. Sufia Shaikh, Dr. Leenus Tafline, Mr. Dayal Bhattacharya.</p> <p>Mode of event: Online Date(s) of the event: 29th October 2021</p>
2.3	Policy Drafting Competition	<p>The Policy Drafting Competition provided a platform for students to develop their skills in the art &amp; science of policymaking. It consisted of an online preliminary round where participants were asked to submit Policy Briefs pertaining to certain global issues. It was followed by a policy presentation where the participants presented their work and were subjected to scrutiny by the panel of judges.</p> <p>Judges: Abhishek Sudke, Aditi Agarwal, Sangyukta Das</p> <p>Mode of event: Online Date(s) of the event: 30th October 2021</p>

3	The Planning Forum's Society Orientation	<p>The Planning Forum inducted the new batch of first-year junior members through the Orientation and allowed the executive members of the society to interact with them.</p> <p>Mode of event: Online Date(s) of the event: 24th November 2021</p>
4	Academic Article Competition, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav	<p>Under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative of the Government of India, the society organised an Academic Article Writing Competition. The Participants were required to send in their abstracts on the theme, '<b>Analysing India's Growth Trajectory: Looking Back at the Impact of Some Path Breaking Policies</b>', where they comprehensively analysed policies which in their view has impacted India significantly. Shortlisted teams were required to present their articles to the panel of judges.</p> <p>Mode of event: Online Date(s) of the event: September 2021 - January 2022</p>
5	Workshop: Mental Health in Higher Education Institutions	<p>An interactive workshop was organised in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell and the Social Service League of St. Stephen's College on '<b>Mental Health in Higher Education Institutions</b>'. Dr. Kamna Chhibber, head of mental health at Fortis Healthcare conducted the workshop. Various methods of coping with stress and anxiety were discussed.</p> <p>Mode of event: Online Date(s) of the event: 29th January 2022</p>

6	St. Stephen's Model United Nations Conference 2022 (14th edition)	<p>The St. Stephen's Model United Nations is a student-led simulation of the proceedings of the different United Nations committees. This year, the society hosted more than 100+ Delegates, International Press and Executive Board Members from across India. Shri. Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha, Chief Information Commissioner of India, was the Honorary Secretary-General. The three-day conference witnessed intense discussions and deliberations on some of the most pressing issues in the world. The committees formed for this year's conference were:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>International Monetary Fund (IMF)</u></p> <p><b>Agenda:</b> Discussing Challenges posed to State Sovereignty by Aid Diplomacy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)</u></p> <p><b>Agenda:</b> Exploring Threats to Cybersecurity with special emphasis on Emerging Technologies</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Human Rights Council (HRC)</u></p> <p><b>Agenda:</b> Protection of Media Freedom with emphasis on the Issue of Impunity.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lok Sabha</u></p> <p><b>Agenda:</b> Deliberating the Proposal for Complete Privatisation of Public Enterprises</p> <p>A special committee for underprivileged children was hosted in collaboration with Teach For India on the agenda '<b>SDG 4 - Quality Education</b>'.</p> <p>Mode of event: Online Date(s) of the event: 26th - 28th February 2022</p>
7	Policy 101: Opportunities in Public Policy	<p>An interactive session was conducted with Ms. Mitali Nikore, founder of Nikore Associates, on the topic 'Opportunities in Public Policy'. She gave insights to the student community through her experience working in the field of public policy. Around 30 people participated in the event.</p> <p>Mode of event: Offline Date(s) of the event: 22nd April 2022</p>

8	Policy Arena in collaboration with Stephen's Centre for Advanced Learning (SCAL)	<p>Policy Arena is an interactive event exclusively for the junior members of St. Stephen's College. It aims to engage and provide the student community a platform to discuss various policies and at the same time gain insights from experts in the field.</p> <p>This year, it was conducted in collaboration with Stephen's Centre for Advanced Learning (SCAL). Students engaged in an active discussion with SCAL fellows on the topic, <b>'Dilemmas of Growth-Prosperity, Equity and Sustainability in South Asia with Special Emphasis on Role of Nation's Youth'</b>.</p> <p>Mode of event: Offline Date(s) of the event: 25th April 2022</p>
9	The Stephanian Forum	<p>The Stephanian Forum functions throughout the academic year and is a platform for the student community to voice their opinions. The Forum publishes content in the field of <i>Culture, Society, Stephania, and Politics</i>.</p> <p>A wide array of subjects are covered in the form of articles, photo essays, reviews, poems etc. <i>'Age of Anthropocene'</i> and <i>'SOS: Indian Art and Culture'</i> are some of the pieces that were published in the past year.</p> <p>Mode of event: Online Date(s) of the event: Year-Round</p>