

# THE HISTORY AND WORKS OF LEADERSHIP CELL

WRITTEN IN 2021

## SOCIETY INTRODUCTION

**The Leadership Cell is one of the oldest and most prestigious societies of St. Stephen's college. Since its inception Leadership Cell aims towards imbibing the core principles of courage, leadership with responsibility and accountability in all our junior members through our works.**

The Leadership Cell has been following this trajectory for years and St. Stephen's eminent alumni in diverse fields like Politics, Diplomacy, Bureaucracy, Corporate World, Theatre etc, is proof of its success. The Society has the sole aim of drawing from these leaders, the knowledge and inspiration to excel in fields that constitute the core of Indian culture. Over the past years, the society has organized workshops, seminars and lectures addressed by several keynote speakers including Gen V N Sharma, Dr Arun Kumar, Shri Kapil Sibal, Ms Tina Dabi, Sri Mani Shankar Aiyar and many others with the aim of inculcating within our junior members the spirit of leadership and help young curious minds not only to learn from the experiences of these leaders and acquire enhanced learning through direct interaction but also put forth their opinions and views at an esteemed forum.

---

## EVENTS

**Leadership Cell organizes a range of events and invites eminent people from varied fields. Every year people of utmost stature and prominence grace our events with their presence and through their experience and spirit aim to reach our junior members to inspire and motivate them to work hard and achieve their goals in life. The kind of events which the society organizes include the following:**

### INAUGURAL EVENTS

The beginning marks the success of the society and following that principle we inaugurate our year with the inaugural talks from some of the prominent speakers.

In the years 2018 and 2019, we invited Late Mrs Shiela Dikshit, the former Chief Minister of Delhi addressed the students on the topic “ Democracy and youth” followed by an interactive session.

The year 2019-2020 proved to be an extremely fruitful year for our society. Kickstarted by the Inaugural Talk by General V.N Sharma (PVSM, AVSM, ADC) on 25th September 2019, provoked the national values in the students and gave them directions for a proper code of conduct in life. All these events were a major success.

However the year 2020-2021 the world was thrown into a whirlwind situation with the global pandemic playing tandem on our lives, the society upholding its ideals put up an impressive vista of events both offline and online. The year witnessed the introduction of the Paper Presentation Competition as a part of the student carnival named 'Jashn -e- Tarikh' in collaboration with Carvaan. It was a week-long competition from the 20th-27th of September'20, starting with an Online Inaugural Session with the judges, which aimed at inculcating in the youth of today's love and thirst to know more about Indian History and Culture. We were extremely honoured by the presence of our esteemed panel of judges Prof. Mridula Mukherjee, Prof. Aditya Mukherjee, Prof. Sucheta Mahajan from Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Prof. Dipesh Chakrabarty from the University of Chicago.

---

# LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

## OUR FLAGSHIP EVEN OVER THE YEARS

The Leadership Conference is an annual tradition of the society that takes place in the odd semester of the academic year and is one of our flagship events. It aims to bring together pioneers from varied fields and backgrounds to share their valuable experiences, their indomitable spirit and their struggles which ultimately led them on the road to success.

In the year 2017- 2018, the leadership conference consisted of a series of interactive sessions by eminent personalities that included Dr. Subramanian Swamy (Member of Parliament), Mr. Kapil Dev (Cricketer), Mr. Amarjit Singh Batra (CEO, OLX), N. Bhanu Prakash ( The Fastest Human Calculator) and Dr. Manoj Choudhary (Entrepreneur). All these speakers enlightened the students with their experiences, their charismatic personalities, their innovation and their hard work. They inspired us to look beyond difficulties, believe in ourselves and work towards achieving one's dreams.

In the year 2019-2020, the Leadership Conference was conducted on 30th October 2019, wherein Mr. Prasun Bajpai, a well-known face, and a well heard voice. He is a famous Indian journalist who has worked for several media channels and has been the executive director of AAJ TAK, addressed the students and gave them insights into the professional media world.

In the year 2020-2021, the Leadership Conference boasted an impressive speaker lineup. We were honoured by the presence of eminent personalities like Ms Sanjana Sanghi, the young and multi-talented actress, the bestselling author Mr. Ashwin Sanghi, Mr Sanjiv Bikhchandani, the founder of Naukri.com and Shaadi.com, the young chess master and youth icon Mr. Vidit Gujrati, Mr. Shiv Kherra, the amazing author and motivational speaker; and the co-founder of Cloud mark and Topsy Mr. Vipul Ved Prakash. This two-day conference held on 26th and 27th made the month of October memorable for all our attendees. Though online, the interaction with each of our guests was exceedingly fruitful and a great learning opportunity.

---

# THE DIALOG

## THE EVEN SEMESTER HIGHLIGHT

The Dialog of the leadership cell was a successful event first organised in college in the year 2017-2018. Held on 19th-20th February, the event is all about opinions and ideas. The Leadership Cell hosted an incredible line of speakers for the college community. The garnered speakers were from varied fields yet infused the aura of bounteous knowledge galore. The event focused on inviting seasoned and profound minds to felicitate the dissemination of information, enthusiastic engagement in the discussion alongside fervent ideation

We witnessed a series of interactive sessions by eminent personalities that included Mr. Varun Gandhi (Politician), Mr. Manishankar Aiyar (Former Diplomat, Former Union Minister), Hon. Shaida M. Abdali (Ambassador Afghanistan), Dr. Amna Mirza (Author, Academician), Mr. Kazim Rizvi (Co-Founder- The Dialogue) and Mr. Brij Pahwa (Journalist, Buisnessworld).

Mr. Varun Gandhi, a composed speaker upholding equanimity throughout, enlightened us all with his substantial and invigorating address. He delivered a stimulating address wherein he widely shared his experiences and that of the common man focussing on how innovative ideas and strategies are evolving to tackle the problems of the citizenry.

Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, a stalwart and scintillating orator catapulted spoke on India Pakistan Relationship, Mr. Aiyar delivered an address in his most sorted candour which left the audience in the sheer atmosphere of bliss.

Mr. Abdali, the Afghan Ambassador to India, did commence the discourse with his substantial address on Global Governance which was further complemented by Dr. Amna Mirza, a Columnist and an Academician, views on situating power and de-globalisation. The rein was taken forward by Mr. Brij Pahwa, an Editorial Specialist at the Businessworld Magazine and former convener of Youth Forum on Foreign Policy, where he touched upon the contours of privacy and the essential need to demarcate the servility and dominance. The session was splendidly moderated by Mr. Kazim Rizvi, the Founding Director of The Dialogue.

---

In the year 2019-2020 The Dialog was held on 10th & 11th February 2020 and attended by eminent personalities like Shri Kapil Sibal, an immaculate lawyer and an alumnus of St. Stephen's College, Mr. Shivshankar Menon an Indian Diplomat and ex-National Security Adviser of India under Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh.

Mr. Sibal addressed the college community on the nation's development precariously standing on the pillars of politics while Mr. Menon focused on reviewing India's way forward in a changing world.

They gave their opinions that promoted righteous conduct, national values, national integration and in the audience, we had the student's community of the whole Delhi circuit

In the year 2020-2021 As things took a turn for the better, we were able to host offline events and The Dialog '21 was one of them which gave us the great pleasure of hosting Ms. Tina Dabi IAS on the 6th of March 2021. She spoke about her experiences as a DU student, her preparation strategies and how life changes after joining the administrative services. The Stephanian community had a great evening of chitchat with her and took back a handful of tips to make their student lives easy.

---

## THE SYMPOSIUM

### A THOUGHT PROVOKING DISCUSSION

In the year 2020-2021 as the situation improved with we were able to host an offline event, The Symposium'21 with Mr. Manishankar Aiyar, an Indian politician and a career civil servant diplomat and a Rajya Sabha nominated member of parliament for the Indian National Congress Party, on the 27th of February 2021. He spoke about his life in Stephania and also touched upon Secularism in India. The event was open for students in residence.

The event turned out to be a great success for all and provided the students with an opportunity to learn and experience one of the first offline events in college.

The Leadership Cell has succeeded in living up to its name with its sincere and unparalleled work. We sincerely hope that the coming academic years also allows us to bring more fame to society and college with the new team undertaking the role of taking the legacy forward.

---

## REIGNING PERSPECTIVE

### AN OUTLOOK OF THE WORLD WITH A NEW PERSPECTIVE

The Leadership cell in an attempt to keep up with the tradition of discussions on India and the neighbouring countries' relations, hosts "The Reigning Perspective".

In the year 2017- 2018, the Leadership Cell of St. Stephens's college organised the "Reigning Perspective" on the National Security wherein the honourable speakers, Lt. Gen. Syed Ata Hasnain, Major Gaurav Arya, Mr. Gaurav C Sawant and Mr. Shiv Aroor, highly renowned personalities bestowed their perspectives on the plethora of aspects pertaining to the security of the nation.

In the year 2019-2020 the Leadership Cell was honoured to host The Reigning Perspective on 5th and 6th February. We were bestowed with the presence of Dr. Happymon Jacob, a pioneer in the subject of Arms control and disarmament to talk about India's New Foreign Policy. He has published several works including Kashmir & Indo-Pak Relations: Politics of Reconciliation (2013), The Line of Control: Travelling with the Indian and Pakistani Armies(2018). To carry forward the enlightening discourse, we also had Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri, an alumnus of St. Stephen's College and the Ambassador of India to Nepal. He shed light on the prospect of SAARC in building a prosperous neighbourhood.

They discussed the topics of Indian foreign activities and broadened our perspectives. The talk promoted righteous conduct, Non-violence, Peace, National Values and National Integration.

---

## THE BLACK ECONOMY

We were honoured to host Professor Arun Kumar for a talk on Understanding the Black Economy in India on 16th January 2020. A man of immense knowledge, Mr. Kumar has a wealth of experience in the teaching background along with the skills of an accomplished author, having published several books on a topic widely igniting curiosity in both the students and teachers' minds. The lecture was followed by an interactive session and was a great learning experience for all the students from different educational fields.

## RATIO DECIDENDI: ANNUAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION (2017-2018)

The Leadership Cell proudly presented its first Annual Moot Court Competition, Ratio Decidendi. It was held at two different levels, the School Level and the Law College Level and saw a wide range of registrations from different parts of the country.

The event started on 25th March. The orientation was hosted Ms. Avani Bansal, Senior Advocate at Supreme Court of India and Mr. Debajyoti Das who gave an insight into how the Moot Courts work, why one should participate in as many moot courts as possible and the etiquette to be followed as a participant.

The event continued to go smoothly and the participants received their certificates and trophies almost immediately after the results were declared. Though it was the first time most of us were working as an organizing committee for a moot court, the event was a huge success.

---



