



**THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2022-23**

INTRODUCTION

The Photographic Society of St. Stephen's College, founded in 1949, is one of Delhi's oldest photographic societies. Led by a group of passionate photographers, our aim has been to encourage the art of photography in the college community. Through diverse events, including photo talks, photo walks, and inter and intra-collegiate collaborations and competitions, we hope to broaden the scope of photography. Our alums include prominent photographers like Aditya Arya, Ram Rahman, and Sanjeev Saith.

Under the aegis of our fests, such as *Frames* and *Breaking Frames*, varied national-level competitions are carried out. The motto of our society, '*Keeping College in a Frame since 1949*' succinctly captures the role we play in covering programs organized by both academic and cultural societies as well as the *St. Stephen's Center for Advanced Learning (SCAL)* and the *Center for International Relations* here on the college campus. Our team is also involved in the yearly compilation and publication of the official college calendar, sold to current students and alums alike.

With a team comprising 30+ junior members from various years and courses, we organize ourselves in multiple verticals, such as the event-covering team, the publicity team, the sponsorship team, and the website team, to ensure the smooth functioning of our society. The academic year 2022-23 has been a busy year for us at the society, the details of which will be elucidated further in the paragraphs below.

EVENTS 2022-23

We started the academic session by wrapping up our annual fest, *Frames* (April 2022), and a three-month-long photo-covering for the *St. Stephen's Young Leaders Neighbourhood-First Fellowship*

Program (YLNf), offered by SCAL. With the newly formed team, we introduced various photo-related interactive games on our social media platforms, such as ‘*Captured It, Caption it*’ and ‘*Photo-Wordle*.’ Our short Instagram guide on photography was well-received by students on the occasion of *World Photography Day* (August 19). An intra-college treasure hunt competition saw current students sprinting around the campus in an effort to get the prize of free college calendars!

POTM: We also continued conducting monthly photo competitions under *Photo of the Month (POTM)* till the month of May 2023. This is an intra-college competition where students are encouraged to submit submissions on themes like Shadow Art, Old Age, and Picception. The POTM team then announces the winners of the Judges’ Choice and the People’s Choice monthly. During this academic session, we were also able to successfully re-introduce **offline voting** for the People’s Choice category. The participant with the most wins is declared as the overall POTM winner at the end of the academic session and receives a cash prize.

Our team of photographers was also delighted to collaborate with the Fashion Society of Miranda House, *Fashion Crew*, to present a **street-style fashion photoshoot** captured at the picturesque Lodhi Art District in September ‘22.

Breaking Frames ‘22: With the start of October, the team geared up for the commencement of our mini-fest, *Breaking Frames (BF)*, which is usually conducted in the odd semester. This time, we had **Photo-Project** (a photo-story competition) and **Minimalist Photography** as our pre-event online competitions, with cash prizes of over five thousand in store for the winners. Both these national-level collegiate competitions were evaluated by a panel comprising renowned photographers such as Abdul Momin and Hans Kritzler. As a part of BF, a **Halloween-themed photo shoot** for current students saw good participation. Following this, we successfully organized an offline **Onspot Photography competition**, a **PhotoTalk** by eminent photographer Arpit Tyagi, and a lovely **PhotoWalk** to Yamuna Ghat on October 7th, 8th, and 10th. We are also delighted to have collaborated with Vastram, the fashion society of SGTB Khalsa College, for a **vintage photoshoot** on the college campus.

Calendar Vertical: The beginning of November saw team members engaged in researching and compiling photographs for the *Official College Calendar 2023*. The theme for the calendar was chosen to be ‘*Ad Meliora*,’ a Latin word that means ‘*toward better things*.’ Our work in the library archives was rewarded when we came upon iconic photographs of college and its events from 1881 onwards, many of which were duly incorporated into the calendar. With sales of **400+ calendars**, the Calendar team efficiently worked to collect, parcel, and post copies of the calendar to students and alums all over

India. On 12th April 2023, the Social Service League of the college conducted a blood donation camp, as part of which we gave away over **170 calendars** to the non-teaching staff participants.

Alongside, the arrival of the new batch of first years was marked by the organizing of a **Fresher's exhibition**, wherein their submissions were exhibited on the SCR lawns. Our team also engaged with the alumni who had visited the college for the alum reunion events in early December.

Photo Classes: As part of our effort to teach the college community about photography, we conducted two photo classes, both led by current junior members, in September 2022 and January 2023, respectively. Here, the technical working of a DSLR, along with analyzing the works of famous photographers such as Raghunath Rai, was carried out. Moreover, we also carried out a **distribution of photobooks** authored by well-known photojournalist Gauri Gill.

Event-Covering | Creating a Digital Archive: Amidst all this, there was quite the hustle-bustle in the event-covering team as they were involved in photo-covering for various society and administration-organized events in college. In this academic session, we have covered over **80+ events** of 30+ college societies, such as those of the Debating Society, the Gandhi-Ambedkar Study Circle, and the Social Service League. Moreover, this semester, we are seeing more first-years participating in event-covering alongside second and third-year mentors. We also covered the various workshops and programs conducted by SCAL (*St. Stephen's Center for Advanced Learning*). The *Founder's Day* event, the celebratory program on *100 years of Allnutt Residences*, and the choral performance at the college chapel are instances of college activities that were also photographed by our team. The highlight in January was the invitation offered by Dr. Ajay Dua, a retired civil services officer and one of our sponsors to cover the **Golfing Tournament 2023** and celebratory dinner organized by *The St. Stephen's Golfing Fraternity* on 20th January at the Delhi Golf Club and the Taj Palace. Additionally, the International Relations Office of the College invited us to cover "*Why Leaders Think: The Necessity of Literature in Politics*," an interactive talk session between Mr. Édouard Philippe (former Prime Minister of France) and Dr. Shashi Tharoor (Member of Parliament). The society also covered **Harmony**, the annual college Fest for three consecutive days in March'23. Furthermore, we were invited to cover prominent events such as *Amoros*, the annual production of the Choreography Society, the annual production of The Shakespeare Society, *Dastaan*, the annual production of Sabha, *Unicolour*, the annual fest of The North East Society, and many more. The event-covering vertical wrapped up the academic session by covering the *Convocation Ceremony for the Batch of '23* and the *annual 70th Sports Celebrations* of the college.

Intra-College Society Collaborations: On 13th February, we collaborated with **The Fine Arts Society**, for a Photoshoot with the theme "Recreating a Famous Painting" where we had participants come dressed up as a famous painting for a photoshoot. This took place as a sub-event under FAS's annual fest, *Artipelago*.

On 15th February 2023, the Photographic Society collaborated with **The Environmental Society** for a Photowalk to The Yamuna Biodiversity Park, documenting the flora and fauna there. The event saw participation by around 25+ junior members.

In April, **The English Literary Society** collaborated with The Photographic Society for a **Photo Essay Competition** organized as part of LOGOS'23 - the annual fest of the English Literary Society. The theme for LOGOS'23 was 'Listening to Earth: Voices on Climate Change'. For the same, participants were encouraged to document their surroundings, on topics related to climate change, the environment, the interplay between technology and ecology, the anthropocene era, environmental degradation, and similar themes.

On 20th April 2023, The Photographic Society collaborated with **The Gender Studies Cell** to organize an event called "**Photohunt: Documenting Women in College Photographs**". This event was a part of GenCell's annual fest "Sarfarosh" with the theme "We Belong". The objective of this event was to capture and showcase the representation of women in St. Stephen's College. Junior members along with photographers toured the college, including the cafe and hallways, in search of photographs that showcased women in college.

The Photographic Society has also collaborated with **NotSoStephanian**. As part of this collaboration, junior members of the society have captured photographs that have been submitted to NSS, and they have subsequently been posted on their Instagram account with appropriate captions.

FRAMES '23: The annual fest of the society started taking shape during the mid-semester break, where we started with the pre-event competitions, **Photowars** and **Main Exhibition**. The first one was Main Exhibition with the theme '*The Essence of Wabi Sabi*' wherein we received over 30 entries. The second pre-event was a national-level inter-college competition, **Photowars 2023**. Photowars was a 4-week long competition, wherein 4 themes are released, biweekly, and participants had to click pictures adhering to the theme. We received over 50 registrations for the same.

Frames 2023 lasted from **the 17th to the 19th of April**. We started off with an interactive workshop on '**Panoramizing: Telling Photo Stories**' by **Mr. Amit Pasricha**. Mr. Pasricha is one of the most

prolific names in the field of panoramic photography. A dedicated artist and designer, he graduated with a degree in English from St. Stephen's College in 1988. Along with holding multiple exhibitions and publishing significant photobooks, he is also the founder of a photographic campaign, 'India Lost and Found.' The talk was followed by a '**Panoramic Photography Competition**' wherein participants were supposed to click panoramic shots based on whatever was taught and discussed during the workshop.

On Day 2 of Frames we had the much-awaited '**Technical Relay**' competition, where in we saw 15 inter-collegiate teams take part, comprising mentors and first-year junior members. Spanning over 2 hours, participants were encouraged to click on a repertoire of photographic themes within the college campus.

We ended Frames 2023 with a **Phototalk by Dayanita Singh** on 19th April, '23. A Hasselblad award winner, Singh is an artist who uses photography to reflect and expand on the ways in which we relate to photography. It was a fun and interactive session, where she took us through the numerous possibilities and opportunities that photography brings to us, to document and collect stories and memories. We finally ended with a **small prize distribution ceremony**, acknowledging everyone who participated in and won various competitions conducted during Frames 2023. Cash prizes of over rupees one thousand were also given to the winners!

We would like to thank our principal, Professor John Varghese, and the college administration for giving us permission and support to carry out these activities. Throughout this academic session, our aim has been to stimulate the art of photography on the college campus, mull over the various possibilities of the camera beyond its technical expertise, and encourage students to experiment, innovate and create.

Thank you.

Please find attached a link to our official account on Instagram which gives a comprehensive overview of the major activities conducted this semester: <https://www.instagram.com/photosoc.ssc/?hl=en>

Additionally, please also find attached a drive link containing some pictures showcasing a few of the events conducted by us:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tScVMWYlInV4QJfjqo5n34jRonNIIdURC?usp=drive_link

