

The Civil Services Forum

The Civil Services Forum at St. Stephen's College, in the academic year 2023-24, has organised many events, ranging from talk sessions, panel discussions, interviews to workshops and competitions. The Talk event by Dr. Shah Faesal gave insights into his administration and policy decisions as an IAS officer in Jammu and Kashmir, pertaining to the sensitivity of that region. Talk event by educators Mr Prashant Sharma and Mr Abhishek Mishra provided a framework to aspirants on how to start their journey for UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation. Participants were taught crucial skills like effective newspaper reading, time management, balancing higher education, etc. Talk event by Mr Anshul Bhatt disseminated the story his journey towards becoming an IAS officer to the larger student community. This was a successful inter-college event and Mr Anshul Bhatt was able to personally guide many students through the QnA session during the event.

This year, the society organised its first ever International Relations Workshop, which was a two-day event. The first day was taken up by Prof. Tridivesh Singh, and the second day was taken up by Prof. Reshmi Kazi, who touched upon the complexities and nuances of foreign policy consideration. Also, the Group Discussion Workshop was organised, wherein educator Mr Amit Poddar trained the students on how to think critically and participate confidently during Group Discussions. This was followed up by more than six educational visits to the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), where participants got to attend sessions by World Leaders and stalwarts of Global diplomacy like Her Excellency Karla Samayoa Recari (Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs for Guatemala), H.E Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi (Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture), H.E. Mr Alejandro Simancas Marin (Ambassador of Cuba to India), and many more. CSF has also conducted interviews of personalities like Dr. Alwyn Didar Singh and Mr. Vivek Atray for its blog Executive Dialogues. Both of whom are ex-IAS officers and gave deep insights into preparation strategy and their experiences with administration.

Additionally, the expansion of CSF's network and outreach through competitions and events makes it more inclusive and ensures that its benefits are widely accessible. With this vision, the Forum organised four very well-received competitions such as the Group Discussion Competition, the Answer Writing Competition, the ColloQuiz and the Policy Case Competition.

As a part of our Annual Flagship Event, CSF organised a two-day event consisting of a Panel Discussion and the ColloQuiz. The Panel Discussion consisting of eminent personalities like Lt. Gen. Arun Sahni, Amb. Ashok Sajjanhar and Prof. Ayushi Ketkar was organised to give a better understanding of defense and diplomacy was conducted as a part of the Annual Flagship Event "Colloquium". The ColloQuiz was a quiz competition based on the format of the Prelims Paper of the Civil Services Examination, which tested the general aptitude and knowledge of the participants for a number of subjects like Economics, Polity, History, Geography, Agriculture, Current Affairs, General Science, etc.

CSF had set out to provide a resourceful and welcoming space to not only those students who are Civil Services Aspirants, but also those who simply wished to have a deeper understanding of the society they live in, and to become more aware citizens of India. It has thoroughly achieve this objective, as it has reached out to varying sections of the larger student community through its diverse range of events to cater to all.