

# Royal Mirror

August 2020, Issue XX

**-MERAKI-**  
The Inter-House Competitions

**RHAPSODY**

**SCREENPLAY**

**VOICES**

**TAAL**

**SURMAYEE**

**THROUGH THE LENSES**

**BACKSTAGE**

# FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR



**Ananya Khaund, XII E**

Dear Readers,

You have in front of you, our school's first digital issue of its newsletter, the Mirror. Needless to say this edition has been the result of a turbulent year which reinforces within us, the need to find comfort in the written word. While the world battles a global pandemic and each of us find ourselves confined to our homes dealing with our own share of issues, it is the artistic community that shelters our minds. Be it theatre or music, the globe has awakened to new ideas while coping with the standards that have been set for an era that will go down in history as the 'new normal'. Our school too has enthusiastically worked in tandem with changing times with two online inter-house fests, multiple webinars, and extensive participation in various inter-school activities while also conducting online elections for its Student Council. This is only the beginning. As the need of the hour signals for more aware and informed individuals, the functioning of international relations too change. With issues relating to the environment, gender equality, quality education and widespread literacy, and the Sustainable Development Goals; we find ourselves at a turning point of global politics. We, as the student community shoulder the responsibility to be pioneers in the manner in which the new world is to be shaped. It is our duty to be more vocal, sensitive, and receptive towards our surroundings.

Stay home, stay safe, and stay strong.

**Teacher Editor**  
**Sattyakee D'com Bhuyan**

**Layout and Design**  
**Vidhi Chowdhury, XIIC**  
**Commerce**

**Photography**  
**House Leads**

# PREFECT COUNCIL 2020–2021

While recognising the need to select and shape able leaders who will act as a bridge between students and teachers, our school conducted online elections for 20 posts of the Prefect Council. Having already selected a Head Boy and Head Girl at the end of the last session, various interviews were organised to shortlist names for the posts of Sports, Co-Curricular Activities, and the houses. Each shortlisted candidate was to present their manifesto over a webinar which was screened for the whole school. In keeping with the spirit of democracy and transparently electing our leaders, each candidate was voted for through online polls.

## School Captains



Head Boy  
Ayushmaan Choudhary



Head Girl  
Ananya Khaund



CCA Captain  
Vanshika Das



Deputy CCA Captain  
Aditya Rathi



Sports Captain  
Vilila Thongsar



Deputy Sports Captain  
Anushka Upadhyaya

## Gandhi



House Captain  
Aariya Thoumoung



House Vice Captain  
Vatsal Siotia



House Prefect  
Naina Dugar



House Prefect  
Vaibhav Surana

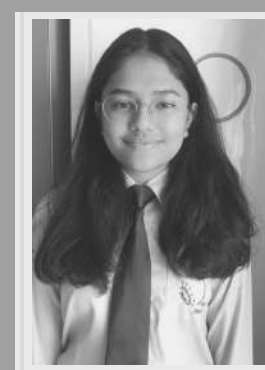
## Mother Teresa



House Captain  
Vidhi Chowdhury



House Vice Captain  
Anuragi Jain



House Prefect  
Kannaki Kalita



House Prefect  
Ashwika Das

## Tagore



House Captain  
Nehal Jain



House Vice Captain  
Vedant Chhawchharia



House Prefect  
Anushka Agrawal



House Prefect  
Swarashi Jain

## Vivekananda



House Captain  
Devika Sarawgi



House Vice Captain  
Dristi Saraf



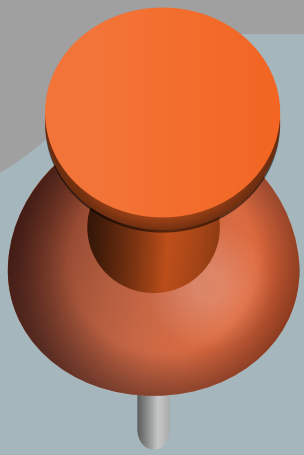
House Prefect  
Vansh Agarwal



House Prefect  
Gazala Fida Sabbir

# MERAKI

## The Inter-House Competitions



**VIVEKANANDA HOUSE**

HOW I TAUGHT MY GRANDMOTHER TO READ

JULY 20, 2020 (ZOOM LINK)

• SHANVI AGARWAL  
• SIA SONTHALIA  
• HUMA A. KANTA  
• PRISHA JAIN

**MERAKI**

JUNIOR INTER HOUSE FEST

Tagore House Presents

BIHARAT HUNKO JAAAN SE PYAARA HAI

Instrumental

22nd JULY 2020

JOIN US ON ZOM

**MERAKI**

THE GROUP SONG COMPETITION

VIVEKANANDA HOUSE

MUSIC DIRECTOR: PRITHWISH DEBNATH | VIDEO EDITOR: KHUSHI SARAF

MUSKAN JEENA | KHUSHI SWAYAM  
SHRISTI AROOZE | PRITHWISH GAZALA  
HRISHIKESH

JOIN US AT (ZOOM LINK)  
TIME: 4PM  
DATE: 29TH JUNE 2020

**MERAKI**

TAAL

GROUP DANCE COMPETITION

TAGORE HOUSE PRESENTS

THE STORY OF THE QUEEN OF JHANSI  
EXHIBITING THE NAVARASAS

VOTE FOR THE BEST, VOTE FOR TAGORE

JOIN US ON ZOOM  
30TH JUNE, 2020  
6 PM

**MOTHER TERESA HOUSE**

PRESENTS

A CONGREGATION OF BHARAT HUNKO AND TERI MITTI (INSTRUMENTAL)

WHERE WORDS FLOW WITH THE ASSENT OF MUSIC

**MERAKI INTERHOUSE FEST 2020**

WE PRESENT BEFORE YOU

"AFTER 20 YEARS"

A TALE OF TRUST BY O HENRY

JOIN US ON ZOOM FOR THE CINEMATIC ADAPTATION

**DOCTOR'S WORD**

Mother Teresa house presents

A Doctor is summoned  
His bosom friend is sick  
He might not survive the night...

WATCH THE PLAY | 20 • JULY • 2020 | PLATFORM - ZOOM

Welcoming all students  
Performed by IV to VIII students

ROYAL Global School

**MOTHER TERESA**

PRESENTS

ABUNDANT SHADES OF PINK

WHAT THE WOMEN FEELS

JOIN US AT 6PM ON THE LINK PROVIDED  
DO CAST YOUR VOTE FOR US! :) )

A MERAKI INTER HOUSE EVENT

MECHA AS JOHNSY | SHREE AS SUI | SWAYAM AS MR. DEBRAM | RONAK AS DOCTOR | TANVA AS NARRATOR

DIRECTED BY DEVIKA

**the last leaf**

a O. Henry classic

JOIN US AT (ZOOM LINK)  
TIME: 4 PM

THE LAST LEAF FALLEN IS THE TESTIMONY OF NEW BEGINNINGS

**MERAKI**

JUNIOR INTER HOUSE FEST

DANCE

TAGORE HOUSE PRESENTS

THEME - HOPI

JOIN US ON ZOM

21st JULY 2020

**QUIZ**

Inter House Quiz Competition

**VIVEKANANDA HOUSE**

Dristy Baradia  
Kyaa Prisha Roy Sarma  
Dev Gayal

JULY 18, 2020  
4:30PM ONWARDS  
(ZOOM LINK)

ROYAL Global School

presentS

WHILE THE AUTO WAITS

by O. HENRY

MARK TARGET MARK TARGET WHY ARE YOU SPEAKING THAT RIDICULOUS BAIT? WHEN THE GAMES CRASHING DOWN A YOUNG GIRL'S PRETENSIONS!

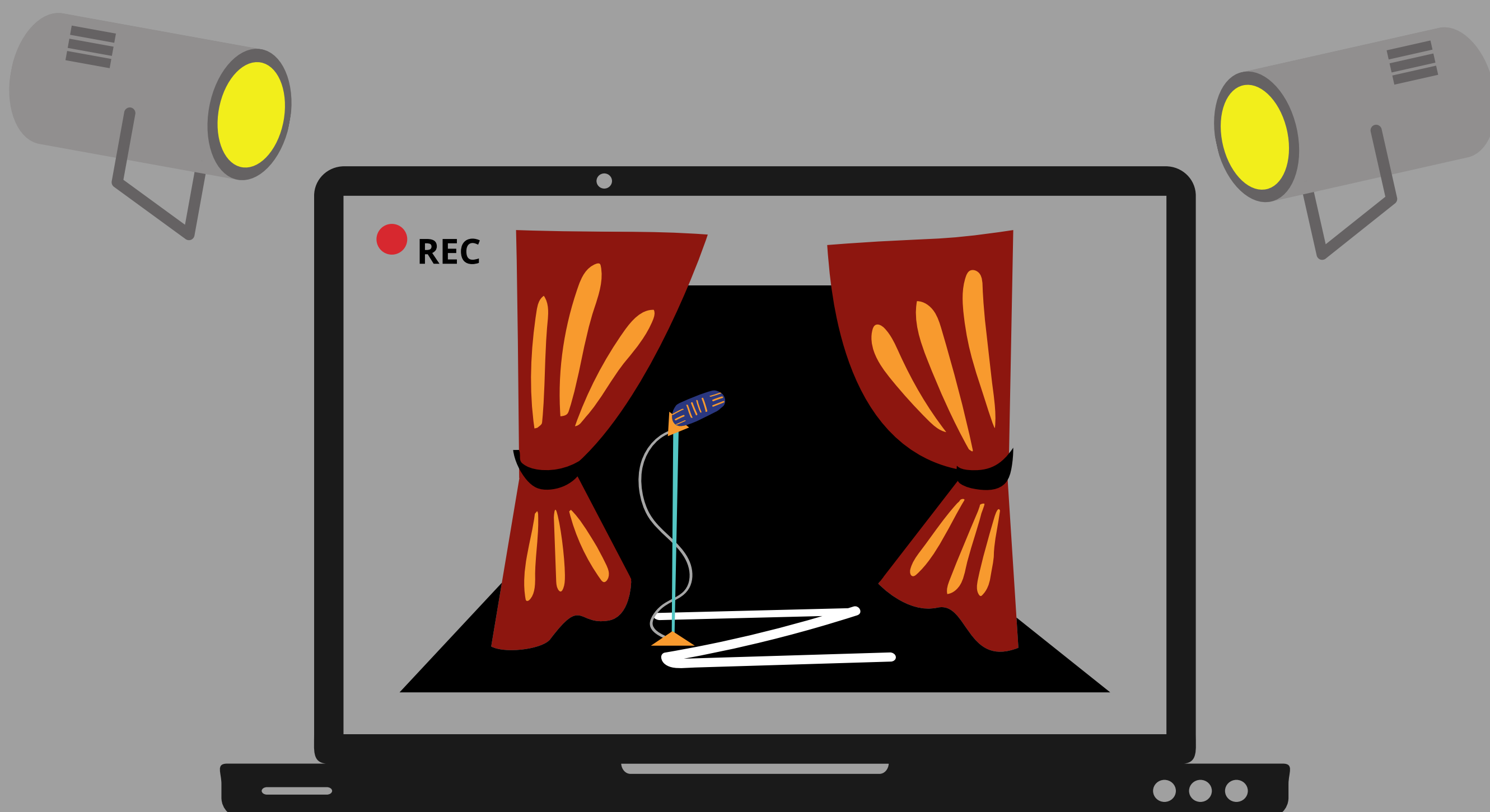
25th June, Curtain 4pm

## SENIOR INTER HOUSE COMPETITION

Meraki, the senior inter-house fest began on the 25th of June, 2020. A set of competitions that had taken the form of a fest the year before, this session was to mark the second edition of the same. This fest is a culmination of various extra-curricular activities that students from classes 9-12 get an opportunity to participate in.

At a time of crises when no one is allowed to be within a few feet of each other and online education has become the norm, the task of organizing an inter-house fest seemed enormous. However, it was yet another hurdle that the school crossed by digitising the entire event.

Events such as dance, music, and a one-act play were staged across multiple platforms while also including debates and quizzes. The school utilised the online medium to its fullest as each house enthusiastically yet efficiently rose to the occasion. Finally, while trying to garner maximum student participation, the school further decided to introduce the concept of voting. The audience was thus also included in the fun by making them stakeholders in terms of which house was to come first and so on. The inter-house fest truly felt the same with more vigorous participation and an increased sense of team spirit.



# BACKSTAGE



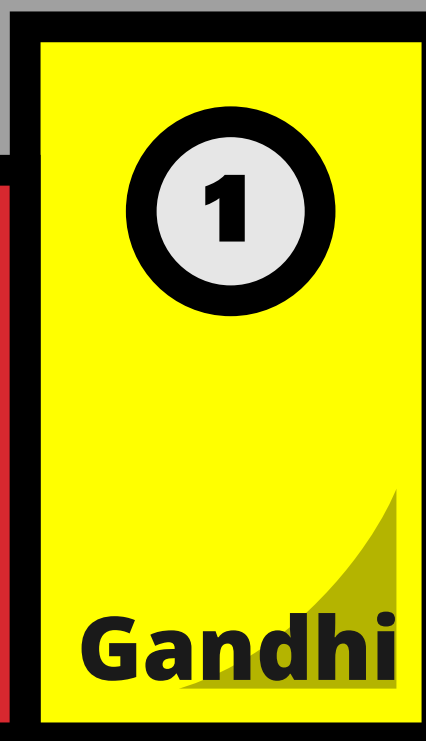
25 June, 2020

Meraki commenced with the One-Act Play competition. It began with the Principal, Anubha Goyal ma'am welcoming everyone to the event and the ones to follow. This competition is one which attracts maximum participation as students from various classes try their hand at acting. This year, the theme for the same was set as short stories by O. Henry. A celebrated writer, his works have been widely circulated and are enjoyed by many. Each house was given a particular short story that they had to adapt. The stories thus proposed were; 'Gift of the Magi', 'The Last Leaf', 'While the Auto Waits', and 'After Twenty Years'.

Every resource available was utilised to make each play more realistic and relatable. The entire event was staged live over a Zoom webinar which was attended by parents, teachers, and students alike. Every student made good use of their space and dressed up to get into character. The barrier imposed by physical distance was seldom felt as the audience remained hooked to their screens. The judges for the evening, Namita Agarwal ma'am and Vikrein Dhar ma'am offered their insight into adapting to the online platform and praised each house for their efforts. In the end, the Gandhi House emerged as the winner, followed by Tagore House as a close second.



Judges : Vikrein Dhar and Namita Agarwal



- 1 Gandhi House: *Vatsal Siotia, Khushi Agarwal, Akash Agarwal, Yakeen Jain, Ayushmaan Choudhary, Gautam Baruah, Anindita Medhi, Udit Baid*
- 2 Tagore House: *Baggmita Choudhury, Vedant Chhawchharia, Krrish Chakravarty, Lawrence Sharma, Dhrisni Bora, Yash Singhania*



**Yakeen Jain**  
Best Actor(Female)  
(Gandhi)



**Vedant Chhawchharia**  
Best Actor(Male)  
(Tagore)



**Sakshi Singh**  
Best Supporting Actor  
(Mother Teresa)



**Vatsal Siotia**  
Best Supporting Actor  
(Gandhi)

# VOICES



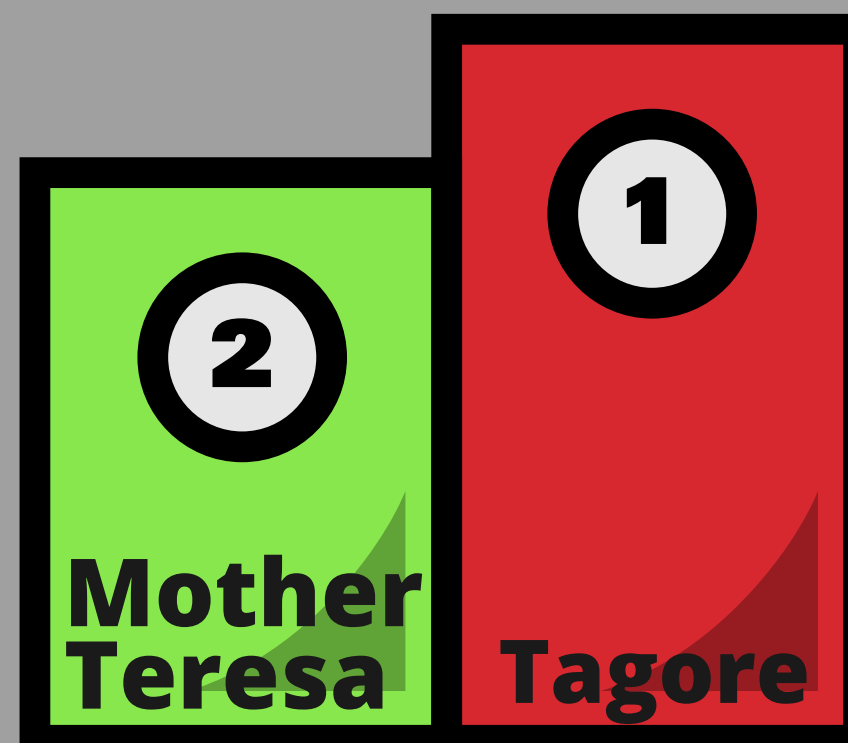
26 June, 2020

The inter-house debate competition directly began with the semi-finals between Tagore House and Vivekananda House, followed by Gandhi House and Mother Teresa House. Set in the modified Asian Parliamentary format, each house was trained for the same beforehand and various mocks were held. The motions for each round were pre-decided and the sides were announced based on a coin toss. The judges for the competition were four post-graduate students from the Delhi University -

Hanumant Singh, Shivansh Agarwal, Prachurjya Phukan, and Siddhant Raj - who were well-versed with the format and offered constructive feedback to each student. The finalists for the debate competition were the Tagore House and the Mother Teresa House. Each team was given time to prepare and their sides were chosen on the spot based on another coin toss. The motion was the same. In the end, the Tagore House emerged as the victors for the inter-house debate competition.



**Judges: Prachurjya Phukan, Raunak Mittal and Aaswath Mahanta**



- 1** Tagore House: *Divyanshi Mittal, Tanveer Rahman, Ranitya Raj Sarmah, Aryan Chakraborty, Aditya Rathi*
- 2** Mother Teresa House: *Anuj Sharma, Hitansh Jalan, Chuzan Mahammad, Sannaya Mirania, Kaavya Kakarania*



**Ananya Khaund**  
Best speaker  
(Gandhi)



**Aditya Rathi**  
Most promising speaker  
(Tagore)

# SURMAYEE



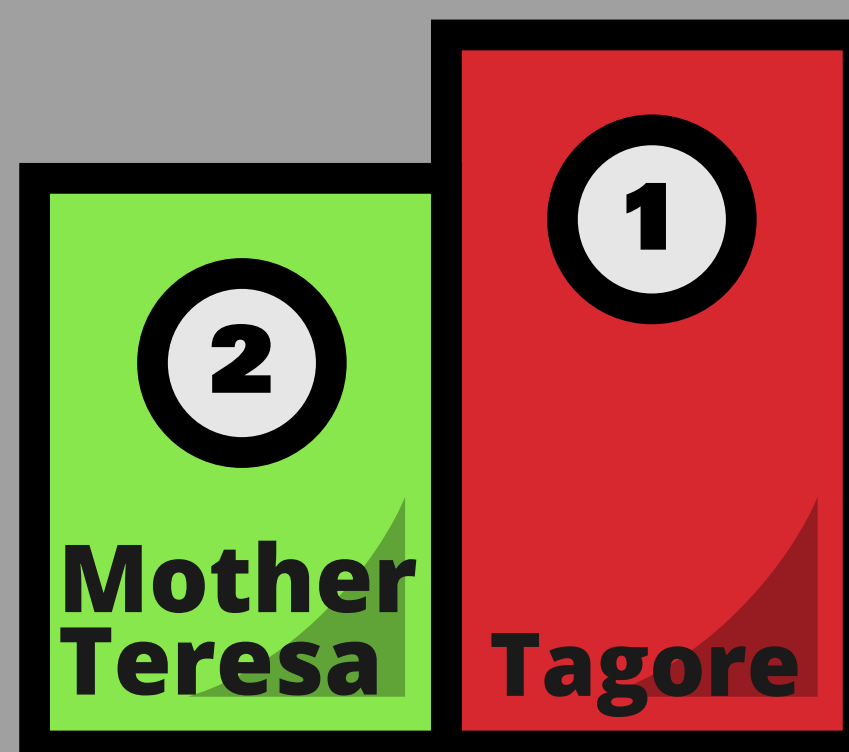
27 June, 2020

The inter-house hindi group song competition was screened over a Zoom webinar. The competition was a great success with each house choosing different songs which brought in the much-needed element of fun and enjoyment. While some chose to reinvent old classics, others looked towards catchy, modern numbers.

Each house's performance earned great praise from the judges of the day - Mr. Madhurjya Bordoloi and Dr. Amanpreet Kaur Kang. In the end, the Tagore House emerged as the winner with the Mother Teresa House as a close second.



Judge: Dr. Amanpreet Kaur Kang



**1** Tagore House: *Anushka Agrawal, Tabish Ghani, Surashmita Neog, Nishita Agarwal, Nitya Rathi, Yasashvi More*

**2** Mother Teresa House: *Anuj Sharma, Anuragi Jain, Banashree Deka, Hriday Raj Barjatya, Pooja Periwal, Royina Khaund, Sakshi Singh, Maitri*





# RHAPSODY



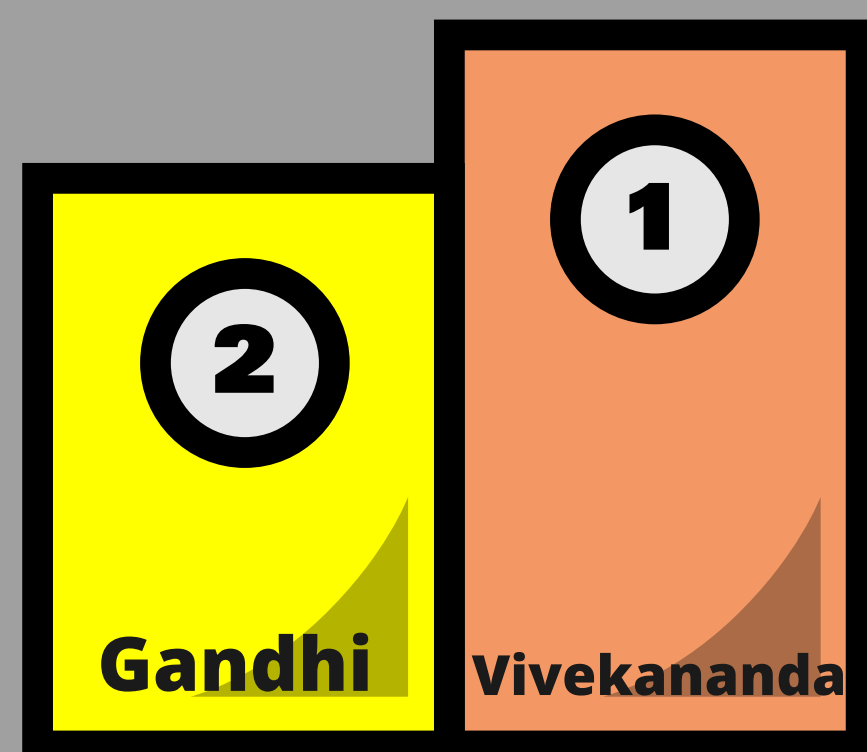
27 June, 2020

The inter-house english song competition, Rhapsody saw a display of colour and creativity. All the four houses took to soulful renditions of songs about humanity and the need to stand with one another. The performances were highly appreciated for

the message they sought to convey and the hope they provided in such a time of crises. While the Vivekananda House's 'We are the World' earned them the first position, the Gandhi house's 'Imagine' came second.



Judge: Madhurjya Bordoloi



- 1** Vivekananda House: *Pritwish Debnath, Khushi Saraf, Gazala Fida Sabbir, Shristi Bora, Swayam Agarwal, Muskan Agarwal, Afroze Hussain, Jeena Chetia, Hrisikesh Deka, Arishmita Sarmah*
- 2** Gandhi House: *Aariya Thoumoung, Gayatri Grover, Mahika Agarwal, Vaibhav Surana, Anindita Medhi, Mehak Jain*



WE ARE ONE BUT WE ARE DIFFERENT

# TAAL



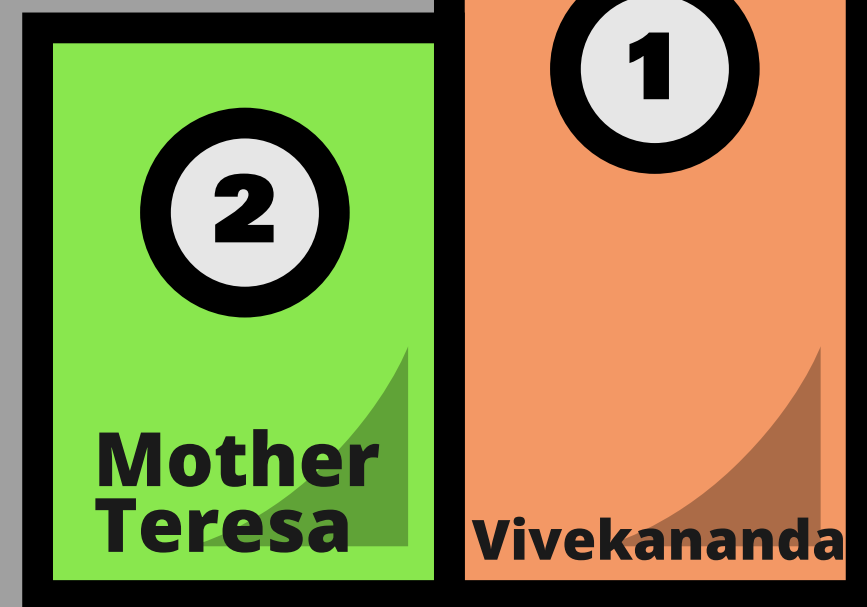
29 June, 2020

Taal, the group dance competition was viewed over a Zoom webinar with the videos having been pre-recorded. Each house chose a particular theme according to which they choreographed and performed their dances. While Mother Teresa House's dance focused on Girl Power, Vivekananda House's showcased a tale of patriotism, Gandhi House performed an expressive take on worship and faith, and Tagore house took us all through the much-loved festival of Holi. The judges for the evening were celebrated dancers,

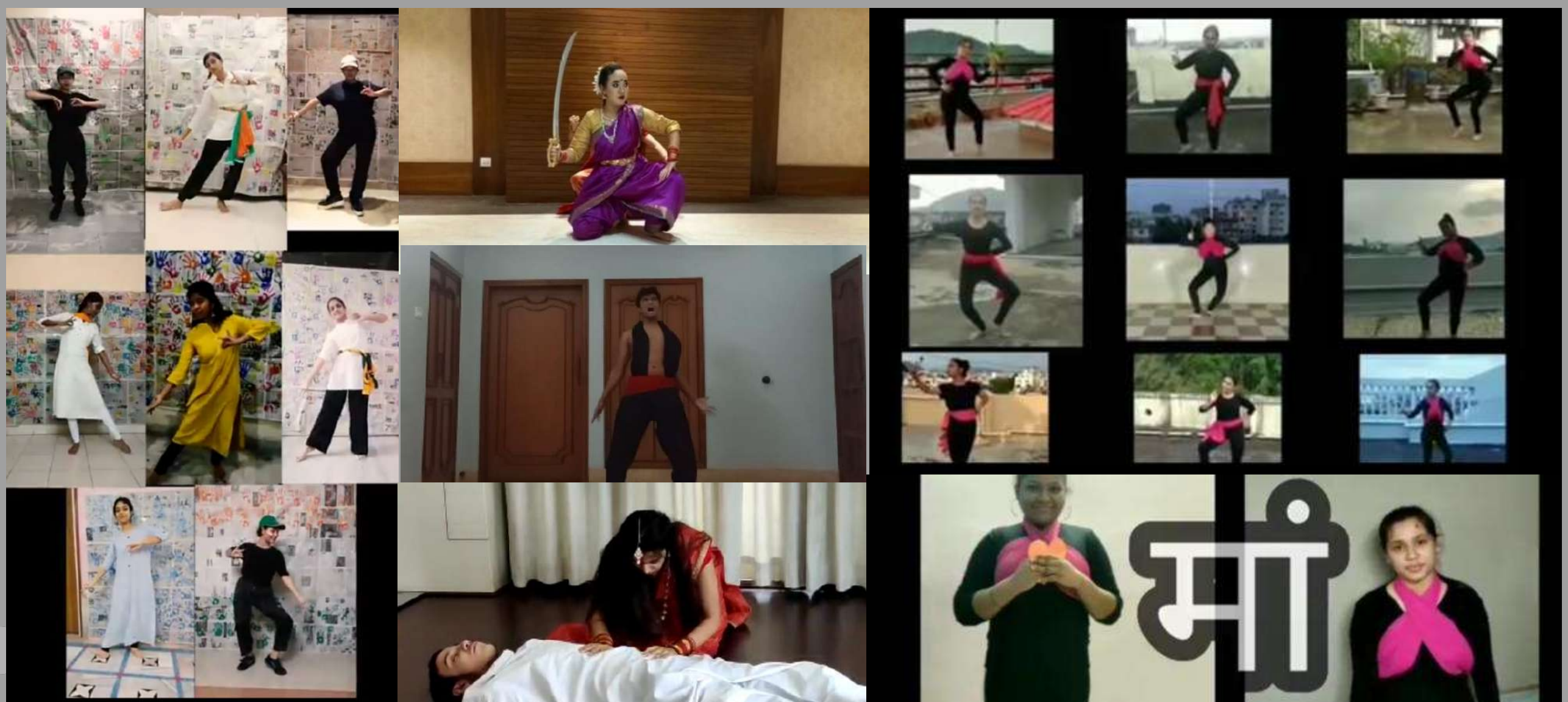
Miss Priyasha Bharadwaj and Miss Prerona Bhuyan, who took their time to offer advice and appreciation to all the participants for their efforts. In all, the management of props, music, as well as technology for this competition added to the moves and expressions themselves paved the way for a successful competition. The Vivekananda House was pronounced the winner, while the Mother Teresa house secured the second place.



Judges: Miss Priyasha Bharadwaj and Miss Prerona Bhuyan



- 1** Vivekananda House: *Dristi Saraf, Jeena Chetia, Kumkum Bhatara, Arishmita Sarmah, Reshmi Sahani, Mahak goyal, Shree Gosai, Tanya Phulwani*
- 2** Mother Teresa House: *Priya Mour, Aakriti Agarwal, Sammy Agarwal, Mohit Goyal, Sridhari Deorah, Kanishka Jain, Royina Khaund, Ashmita Mitra, Arisha Sheikh, Vidhi Chowdhury*



# LET'S GET QUIZZICAL



**1 July, 2020**

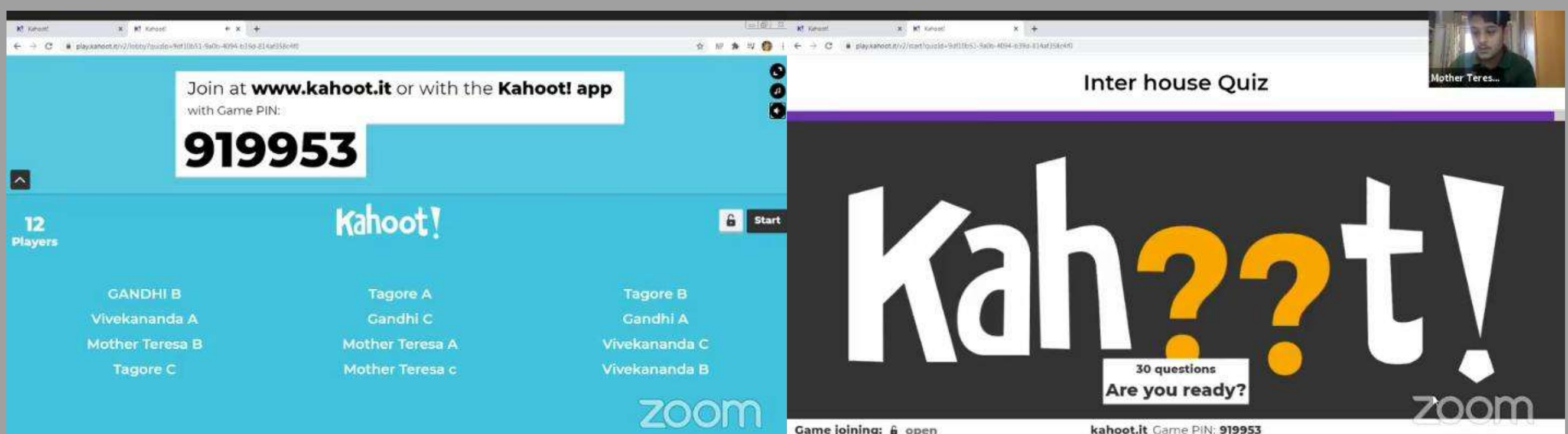
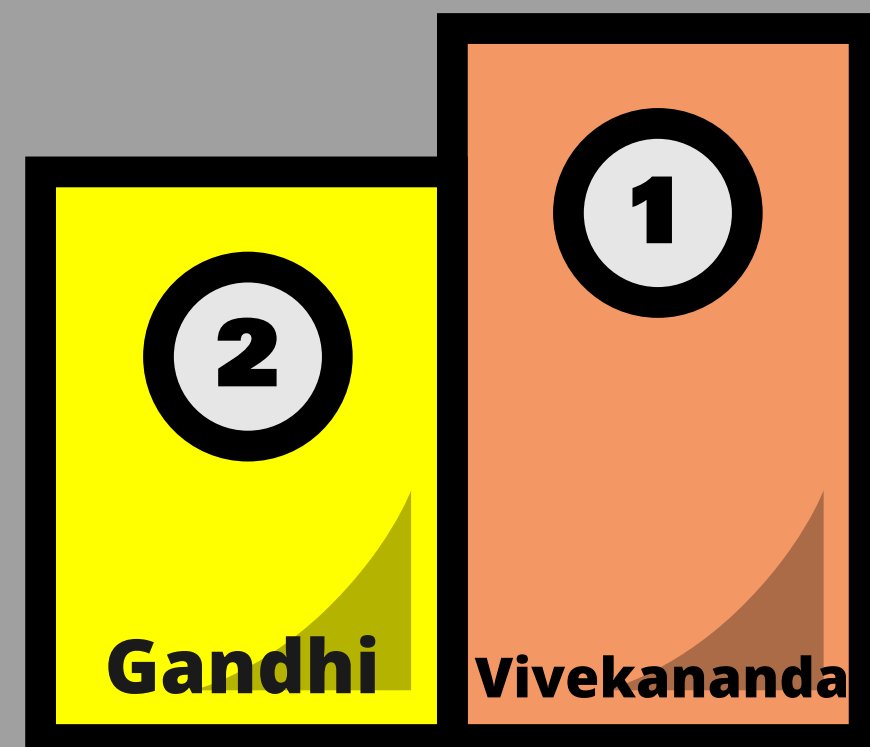
The inter-house quiz competition was a highly enjoyable and thrilling display of wits and intelligence. Each house was divided into teams of three with each member having to answer individually to earn points. The quizmasters were none other than the school's very own Bala Meenakshi Ma'am and Binita Ma'am. Both quizmasters made it a point to include the audience as well, while they presented their questions to the participants. While Round 1 had Binita Ma'am testing everyone's knowledge of Current Affairs,

Literature, History and the like; Round 2 had Bala Ma'am take everyone through a prepared combination of questions using the Kahoot App. The quiz was broadcast for the audience through a Zoom webinar, and questions were asked through carefully prepared PowerPoint Presentations and the online Kahoot app. In the end, after the tallying of scores, the Vivekananda House emerged as victors and the Gandhi house came in second.



**1** Vivekananda House: Gazala Fida Sabbir, Neev Jain, Swayam Agarwal

**2** Gandhi House: Vaibhav Surana, Ayush Sah, Sohail Kazi



# SCREENPLAY



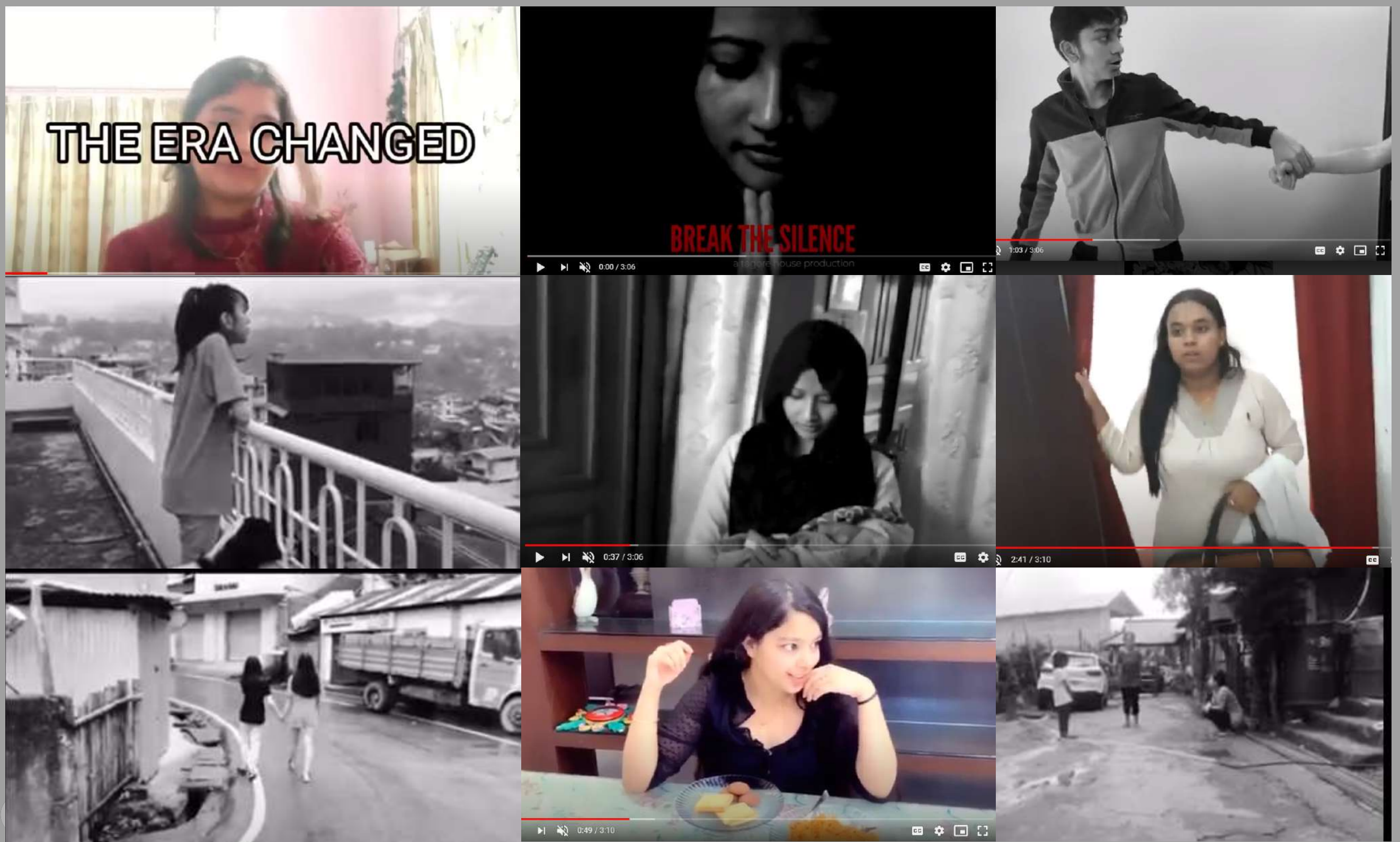
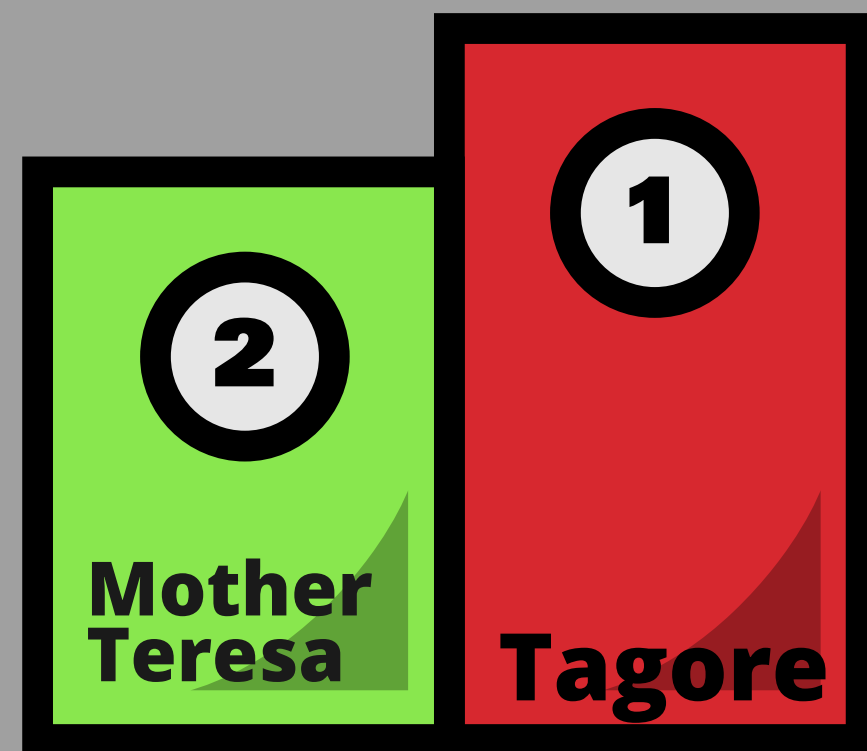
15 July, 2020

Screenplay, the inter-house short film competition presented a challenge to each student to capture something as sensitive and pertinent as gender equality on screen. While such a topic requires a great sense of depth in understanding its finer aspects, each house brought in their own nuanced takes on the theme. While some took on an abstract approach to the topic from the

perspective of a girl's life, others chose to actively engage with issues such as marriage and the societal biases that are imposed on females. This competition was testimony to the creative spirit and eye of each student. In the end, the Tagore House emerged as the winner with the Mother Teresa house securing the second position.



- 1** Tagore House: Shabnam Bargoyari, Dhrishni Bora, Tabish Ghani, Yash Singhania, Laksh Singhal, Vedant Chhawcharia, Sashank Bhattacharjee, Nehal Jain, Divyanshi Mittal
- 2** Mother Teresa House: Anuragi Jain, Kirti Jain, Khusal Bansal, Shakshi Singh, Keshav Kanoi, Chuzan Muhammad, Mrinav M. Mazumder, Rhea Changkakoti



# THROUGH THE LENSES



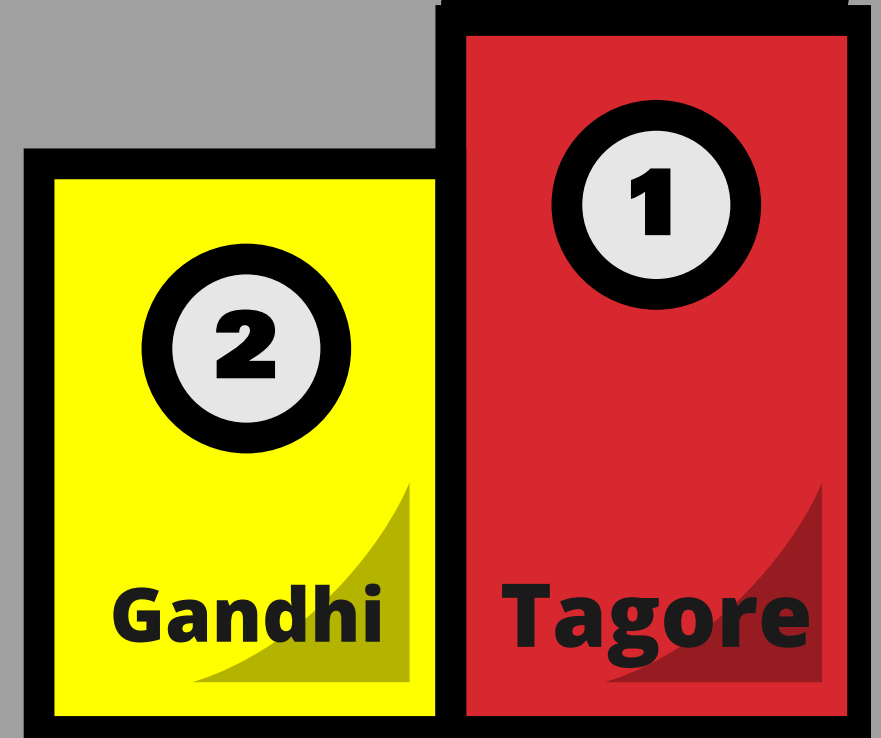
20 June, 2020

The submission for 'Through the Lens', the inter-house photography competition took place before the formal start of the inter-house fest. This competition spanned across various categories which required each student to use their perspectives and vision to execute the themes thus proposed to the best of their abilities. The themes for the same were - human emotions, flora, pets, bonding across generations, and abstract. This competition saw the Tagore house emerge as victors with the Gandhi house coming in second place.



**1** Tagore House: Sashank Bhattacharjee, Baggmita Choudhury, Nehal Jain, Hashi Agarwalla

**2** Gandhi House: Sanket Agarwal, Rohit Sharma, Ayush Sah



Over All (Photography) Points Table									
Sl. No.	House	Category	Human Emotions	Flora	Pets	Bonding Across Generations	Abstract	Total	Position
1	Gandhi		40	20	40	40	--	140	2nd
2	Mother Teresa		30	--	20	20	--	70	3rd
3	Tagore		--	40	30	30	40+30	170	1st
4	Vivekananda		20	30	--	--	20	70	3rd

## HUMAN EMOTIONS



~Happiness is a feeling, expressed through eyes  
Sanket Agarwal, XII E



~Smile is the best look for a boy  
Anuj Sharma, XI B



~You were born a child of lights wonderful secret— you return to the magnificence you have always been.  
Ishika Bucha, XII F

## FLORA



~A flower does not think of competing to the flower next to it. It just blooms.  
Sashank Bhattacharjee, XI D



~Lets live like flowers; wild, beautiful and drenched in sun  
Kaden Aier, XII A



~A single colour shows many different shades; passion and vigour, danger and life  
Rohit Sharma, XII A

## PETS



~Our perfect companions never have fewer than four feet and two weird eyes  
Sanket Agarwal, XII E



~No one can fully understand the meaning of true love unless he's owned a dog  
Hashi Agarwalla, X A



~No matter how little money and how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you rich  
Priyanka Bora, XI D

## BONDING ACROSS GENERATIONS



~Blooming enthusiasm blended with experience and knowledge of ripe years  
**Rohit Sharma, XII A**



~something in a hug, that warms the heart, it feels like home, making it tougher to part  
**Baggmita Choudhury, XI D**



~The best thing to hold onto in life is each other  
**Keshav Kanoi, XI C**

## ABSTRACT



~Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.  
**Sashank Bhattacharjee, XI D**



~just like a handprint on the mirror makes the vapour clearer, leaving an imprint on someone's heart brings them nearer  
**Sashank Bhattacharjee, XI D**



~The secret of happiness is variety, but the secret of variety, like the secret of all spices, is knowing when to use it  
**Noushin Choudhury, XII E**



# JUNIOR INTER HOUSE COMPETITION

The junior inter-house fest began on the 17th of July 2020. Students from classes 4-8 participated in a plethora of events ranging from a dance competition to an instrumental band, debate, and one-act play. Each day was filled with an excitement at the opportunity of being able to compete with one another in events that would otherwise require physical contact. The success of the fest is owed to all the house teachers and the participants who single-handedly took on the responsibility of putting up a grand show. The junior debate competition took place live over a Zoom webinar. The judges for this event were Prachurjya Phukan, Raunak Mittal, and Aaswash Mahanta. The debate was held in the modified-Cambridge format with three participants from each house. It was a learning experience for all of the participants who gained an insight into how to structure their speeches and work on their content. The Mother Teresa House emerged as winners. The Junior Quiz competition was held on 18th July 2020. Each house had a team of three participants. The quizmaster was Senior Coordinator, Binita ma'am, with Dolly ma'am acting as the scorekeeper. There were two rounds with five topics where each of the participants were given two questions to answer on their chosen topic. The Tagore House secured the first place and the Mother Teresa House came second. The One-Act Play competition had all the houses present popular stories written by famous writers.

The judges, Nikita Jain ma'am and Saquiba Naseeb ma'am appreciated all the performances and gave their feedback to the participants. The Tagore house secured the first place with the Vivekananda House securing second. The group dance competition saw a variety of stories told through each performance. Each house focused on a festival of India which they adapted onto the screen. The dances were on the festival of Durga Puja, Holi, Janmashtami, and the Assamese festival of Bihu. The judges for the event, Shibangi Dutta ma'am, and Debabrata Barua sir gave each house their feedback and spoke a few words on the event. In the end, the Gandhi House emerged as the winner and the Mother Teresa House came second.

The instrumental band competition was screened over a Zoom webinar with the pre-recorded videos of each performance shared on screen. The judges for the event, Bhaskar Jyoti Ojha sir and Niketan Das sir gave their feedback on each performance and mentioned ways to improve. Each house performed a patriotic song. The songs ranged from 'Aye Watan Mere Watan', 'Ma Tujhe Salam', a fusion of 'Bharat Humko Jaan Se Pyara Hai' and 'Teri Mitti', and yet another cover of 'Bharat Humko Jaan Se Pyara Hai'. The winner of the competition was the Tagore House with the Mother Teresa House coming in second place.





## BEGINNING A NEW CHAPTER OF LIFE...

 - Shreya Nath, XI A

Life gives us a lot of opportunities to build wonderful memories which can be reminisced for a lifetime. Traveling and meeting new people and getting to see different cultures and traditions makes a wonderful impact in one's life. We arrived from India to Kuwait in 2006, when I was only 3 years old. Hence all my friends in Kuwait are of diverse nationalities like Indians, Egyptians, Kuwaitis, Russians etc. I had the opportunity to understand and learn their cultures and traditions. The native Kuwaitis speak in Arabic. Kuwait is a small and beautiful country with long sea beaches and date palms in the middle east. Kuwait in Arabic means "fortress built near water". Kuwait is a rich and developed country with all comforts and modern amenities. It has the world's 6th largest oil reserves, its currency the Kuwaiti dinar is the highest valued currency in the world. Kuwait has many landmarks and modern architectures such as Al Kout Mall, The Avenues Mall, Kuwait Towers, Marina Beach, Al Shaheed Park, The Sheikh Jaber Causeway - the 4th longest sea bridge in the world. Besides Eid, Kuwaitis also celebrate traditional festivals like camel racing, kite flying, pearl diving and motor racing. Every 25th and 26th February National and Liberation Days respectively are celebrated fervently,



**Kuwait  
Towers**

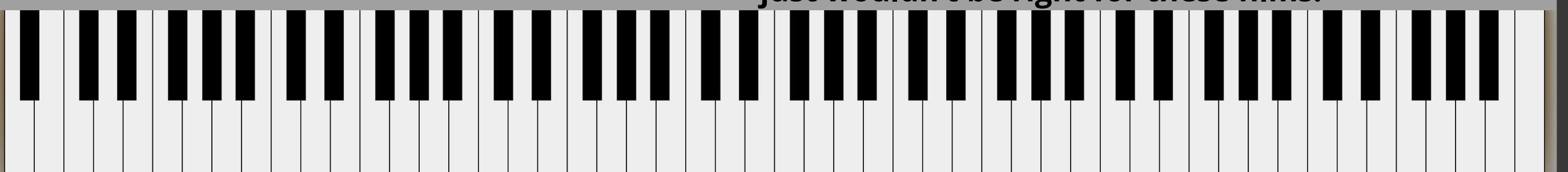
the streets of Kuwait are decorated with lights, fire crackers are burst and children roam around with water guns. The National day is celebrated to mark the first Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah's ascendance to the throne in 1950. The Liberation Day is celebrated to mark the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation in 1991. However, living in an alien land we have not forgotten our roots, every year we celebrate Magh Bihu in a Kuwaiti farmhouse where we stay overnight with our friends and family, do barbeque and bonfire, next morning we light the Meji fire, performing traditional rituals, enjoy Assamese delicacies like teal pitha. We invite renowned artists like Zubeen Garg in Rongali Bihu to make the programme more exuberant. The thought of coming back to Assam was very daunting at first as I had not known many people except my relatives. I was a little anxious as I will have to make new friends and adapt to a new lifestyle. On my first day of online classes I was very apprehensive as I had not known anyone and I didn't know whom to approach moreover everything was online. However, one of my classmates had approached me and started chatting, she was extremely helpful and caring, she also added me in a group chat. At first, I was very anxious if they would like me but then I decided to be positive and started chatting in the group, then they started questioning as they didn't know who this new comer was, we started sharing our common interests, hobbies and passions. Then eventually we all started getting closer, this way I got to know them even better. I have now come to a point where I am very eager and I can't wait to meet my new friends as soon as the school reopens and the Corona pandemic gets over.

# CONVERSATION WITH MELODY ...



**-Gyaan D Bhuyan, XII**

Aaron Copland once said that music was made up melody is a huge trend. Take pop music for of four central components. Melody, Harmony , example, Lady Gaga's "Poker Face" ; one note. Or Rhythm and Tone Colour. But the truth is, melody what about the whole chorus of One Direction's on its own encompasses all the other things "What Makes You Beautiful"? It just has a range mentioned. Melody on its own can and does spanning only three notes. Billie Eilish's hit "Bad suggest harmony. Take the first few notes of the Guy" goes through a monotonous melodic pattern. Indeed, all of the mentioned songs lack an famous traditional Christmas hymn, "O come, O interesting melody. come Emmanuel". Even when it's just melody on its own, the melody is clearly suggesting a In fact I find Billie Eilish's songs incredibly catchy harmony. In simple words, we can hear the perhaps because of its hypnotic repetitiousness. These songs maybe good songs for other reasons but you wouldn't describe any of them as having a strong melody. And if there is any melody there, it's not used as an expressive tool. We understand, melody has gone out of fashion. It's not cool to write a good melody anymore. We just want a cool beat with good tone colours. Perhaps, these songs are successful because they have very little melody and I think that's a point worth thinking about it and it's also very sad. Of course, having a melody which spans one to three notes makes it extremely easy to sing along with too. This trend of no melody has passed on to other areas of western music too. Take any melody intrinsically has a rhythmic character. Even if that rhythmic character is simply free flowing. So, melody is such a wonderful and characteristic part of music which can even o its own encompass all the other building blocks that Copland says are central to music. Now the question is, why is melody dying? film music superstar Hans Zimmer. He's actually extremely capable and soulfully skilled at writing a good melody when he needs to. Take the "Drunken It might sound a wee bit dramatic. I used to hear so many people say this and I wanted it not to be true. But if you look closer whether at pop, film Swagger" of Jack Sparrow's theme. How well these notes explain the character. But when you look at his more recent hits say Dunkirk or Interstellar or Inception, you won't find a lot of distinctive melody in the most popular tracks of these films. Amazing tone colours, great rhythm, moving harmonies but very little melody. Incidentally, I was fortunate to bump into him during a break in one of BBC Proms Concerts in the Royal Albert hall whilst we were enjoying an ice cream in the west end courtyard of the concert hall. This was a part of my travels to the United Kingdom last year. Honestly, you could say that Hans Zimmer is right to do this. He is where he is because he's on top of the trends and on top of his business. And having an overly melodious score just wouldn't be right for these films.



But then we should ask ourselves, why not? When did melody go out of fashion? And why?..... Well it's very difficult to say, but I think this has been building up for some time in the trends of pop music and popular culture. And then perhaps from there it's fed through to other kinds of music. Pop music didn't always lack melody. The Beatles' "I wanna hold your hand", Eric Clapton's "Wonderful Tonight", Queen's "We are the Champions" etc. are songs with rich melodies. At some point, pop music discovered the power of a strong "Hook" and how catchy a repetitive hook can be. Take Led Zeppelin's "Whole Lotta Love". Notice we call this a "Hook" rather than a full blown melody. It's a set of notes or rhythms which are "Bite" sized and are easily memorable. And I think this idea of a catchy hook took over at some point until songs were more and more just hooks with not much else going on. With the rise of Electronic music, we were given techno music and while most of this music wasn't necessarily mainstream it reflects a real lack of melodiousness in favour of other qualities. The rise of EDM (Electronic Dance Music) has massively explored the possibilities of sound design rather than melody. And then, there's the domination of Rap/Hip Hop where of course the performer doesn't so much sing.

And the accompanying music is often just a beat with an endless hook. Perhaps this loss of melody even relates to the digital age of texting, tweeting, the "Bite" sized thoughts. Perhaps the public doesn't want longer streams of thoughts anymore. They just want something "Bite" sized; immediately digestible. It's hard to say why something would go out of fashion but I do think that these trends and ideas in recent music history might give us some idea to why melody now seems to be one of the least engaging elements in modern music. History has often cried the death of melody with Beethoven, Mahler, Tchaikovsky and with the 20th century's Atonal music where melody sometimes became unfollowable. But I think this age today marks a point where melody really isn't used as an expressive tool anymore. It still exists as in, there are still notes that that you can follow and sing along with but it no longer has the expressive qualities of the past. As I write, my thoughts get transported to Denmark where Danish author, Hans Christian Andersen stated, "Life is like a beautiful melody, only the lyrics are messed up." Overwhelmed? I end as I need a break from my own thoughts.



Royal Albert Hall



**✍ -Aiushmaan,Ipsita, Dhrisni, Abhipriti and Priyanka**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were initiated at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 with the intent of creating a set of universal goals that met the world's most urgent environmental, political and economic challenges. The SDGs play a critical role in focusing business, civil society, governments and individuals on a set of common goals to address key global challenges.

In total, there are 17 headline SDGs which are unpinned and supported by 169 targets. Indeed, the SDGs, Targets and Indicators should be used to provide a foundational basis for the further development and implementation of the local and national sustainability strategies, along with the action plans on sustainable consumption and production, that the UN Member States have repeatedly agreed to develop. A global process should then be put in place to ensure that the strategies and action plans are used to fully achieve the Goals, Targets and Indicators -- with a full report back system established under and within the new HLPF to ensure that this process is implemented everywhere in a fully inclusive, effective, coherent, and integrated manner. The UN COVID-19 RECOVERY FUND is aiming to specifically support low and middle income countries as well as vulnerable groups who are bearing the Socio-economic crisis.

Goal 1: no poverty aims to reduce by half the Men, Women and Children of all ages living in poverty.

The UN's GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN which is zero hunger under goal 2 lays out steps to fight the virus in the world's poorest countries and address the needs of the people, including those facing food insecurity.

The COVID-19 SOLIDARITY RESPONSE FUND supports WHO's work to track and understand the spread of the virus, to ensure patients get the care they need and development of a vaccine for Goal 3: Good Health and Well Being.

COVID-19 Global Education Coalition which aims to give quality education under goal 4 is a multi-sector partnership between the UN family, civil society organizations, media and IT partners to design innovative solutions. They aim to facilitate the return of students to school when they reopen to avoid an upsurge in dropout .

UN Women looking for Goal 5: Gender Equality has developed a rapid and targeted response to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on women and girls and to ensure that the long-term recovery benefits them. They aim to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy falls under goal 7.

Energy is everywhere in different forms so it must be available to everyone. A lot of improvement has been seen within the past decade itself. Nevertheless, more attention has to be directed towards clean and safe fuels.

Covid-19 pandemic has affected billions of lives, goal 8 promises to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all. The IMF expects a global recession even worse than 2009. A crisis response was released in April 2020 but beyond this, a lot has to be improved on a more sustainable path, to make their economy strong enough to resist any future shocks.

Goal 9 is on building resilient infrastructure, promoting sustainable industrialization and adopting innovation. All of this can bring a lot of competition among economic forces that generate employment and income. The pandemic is hitting manufacturing industries rough and causing a huge imbalance.

Reducing inequality within and among countries is goal 10 and it is integral to achieve the SDGs. This inequality has always been a concern and covid-19 has hit the poorest and most vulnerable communities the hardest. At the same time, social, political and economic inequalities have reached their peak. Hate speech and intolerance of the vulnerable groups are also rising and the motive is to ensure that people everywhere have access to services and social protection.

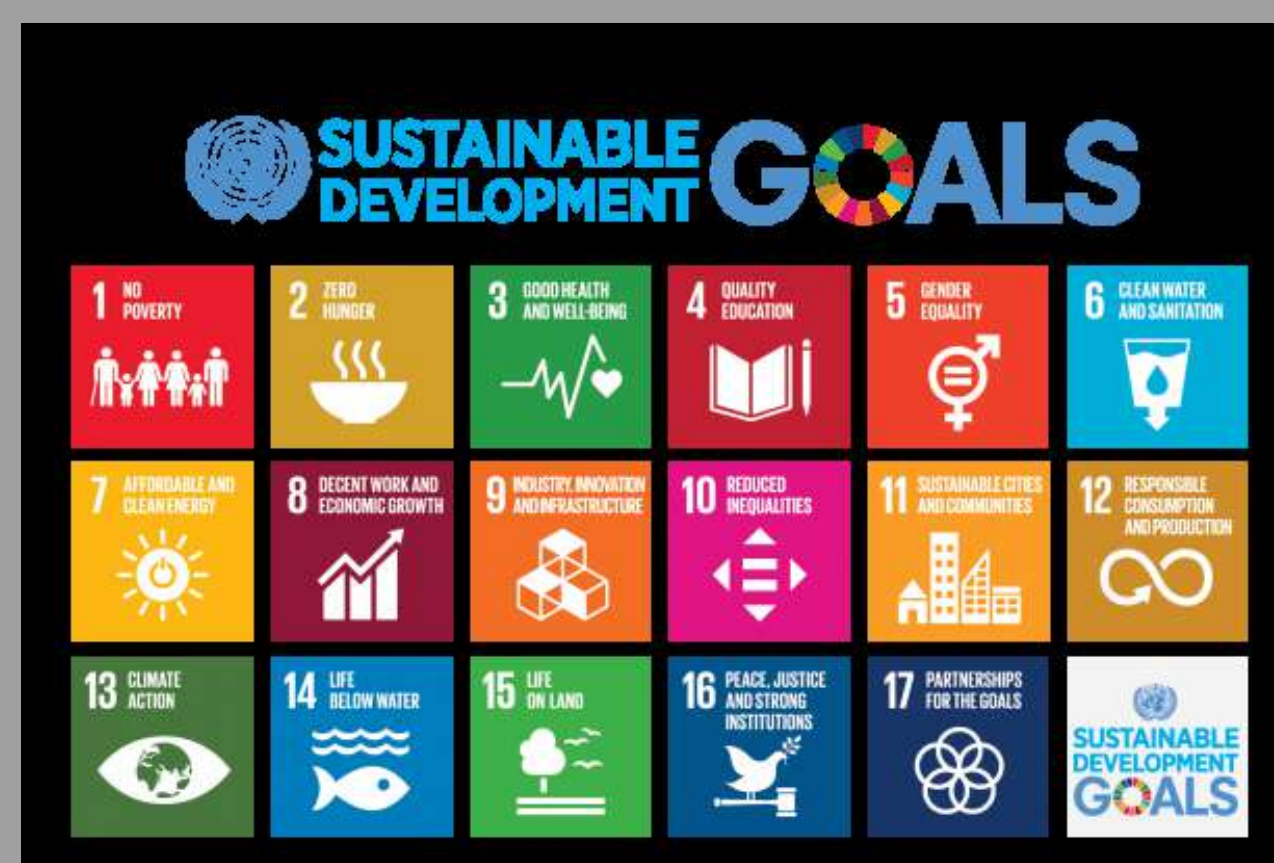
Goal 11 of the SDGs aims to achieve sustainable development by transforming our urban spaces. Over half of the global population - cities faced worsening pollution, inadequate infrastructure and services. The goal is to make cities resilient and sustainable by 2030. Choosing to act sustainably we can build cities, where all citizens live a decent quality of life without harming the environment. To achieve this, we need to implement Goal 12 i.e. sustainable consumption and production. It is also about disengaging economic growth from environmental degradation and promoting sustainable lifestyles. SDGs recognize that tackling climate change is essential for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

SDG 13 aims to promote urgent action to combat climate change. Major progress on poverty reduction has been made in the past 15 years - but nature has often paid the price. By balancing the environmental and economic dimensions, we can establish the basis for a model of growth which protects the planet's resource.

Goal 14 aims to conserve and sustainably use the water resources for a sustainable future. Saving our ocean is a priority as the ocean drives nature cycles that make the Earth habitable for humankind. A flourishing life on land is the foundation for our life on this planet. We are all part of the planet's ecosystem and we have caused severe damage to it. SDG Goal 15 promotes a sustainable use of our ecosystems and preserving biodiversity. All these goals are interlinked and need to be accomplished in order to create a sustainable world.

Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies. Conflict and tension does not bring development. Peace is the only way to prosperity. Birth of one in four children under 5 worldwide are not recorded. All of this deprive them from a legal identity protection. Hence, without this goal, no other goal can ever be sustained.

Goal No. 17: Revitalize the Global partnership for sustainable development. All the goals mentioned in this article can only be put to work with strong Global partnership. Cooperation in global, regional, national and local levels is necessary for the success of this.



Yet, aid levels are falling and donor countries haven't been able to put up with development finance.

The importance of education and awareness-raising Aside from advancing education in line with Goal 4 (quality education), we agreed that more can be done to raise awareness of the SDGs as a whole, and educate groups about the importance of the SDGs, the processes that are helping to implement them, and individuals, programs, and organisations that are working hard to realise them in their own communities.

Some more key points

2. Communicate better and translate 'UN speak' into everyday language

3. Collaborate and exchange best practices  
Link the SDGs to each other

Closely connected to the previous is linking the SDGs together and seeing them as interconnected as well as interdependent. Many of the goals naturally connect to one another, such as Goal 7 (affordable and clean energy) and Goal 13 (climate action).

Recognise regional diversity

Likewise, it is important to recognise diversity within - not simply between - regions, raise awareness among individuals and groups working in the same region, encourage collaboration, and understand that one country or community in the same region may experience significant differences in developmental outcomes as others. Due to the pandemic, the global economy has seen a wide downfall but with strong international cooperation, anything is possible. Today, we stand together in unity for the world as a part of the world!

### 2030 Agenda:

A plan of action for people, planet, and prosperity  
The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next fifteen years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet:

#### *People*

We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfill their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

#### *Planet*

We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.

#### *Prosperity*

We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

#### *Peace*

We are determined to foster peaceful, just, and inclusive societies that are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

#### *Partnership*

We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.



# ANTARPRERNA

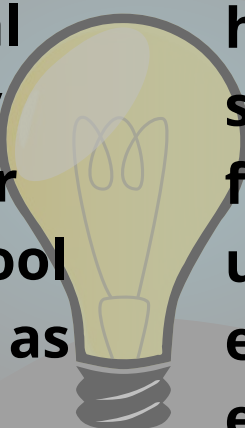
The school's initiative to create an informed community with regards to entrepreneurial ventures was not deterred by the COVID-19 pandemic. While the student body spend their time at home, our school organised various webinars in which they invited renowned experts from different fields. Antarprerna, moderated by Senior Coordinator Binita Jain and coordinated by Bala Meenakshi Rajkhowa, has continued to focus on bringing skilled and experienced individuals to interact with our students.

Sessions have been conducted featuring individuals such as Mr. Sarat Jain, CMD SM Group of Industries, Mr. Rishi Gupta, CA and Educationist, and Mr. Ravindra Chamaria, Chairman and Managing Director, Infinity Group. These webinars have also maximised on student participation with students from senior sections acting as panelists and interacting with the speakers.



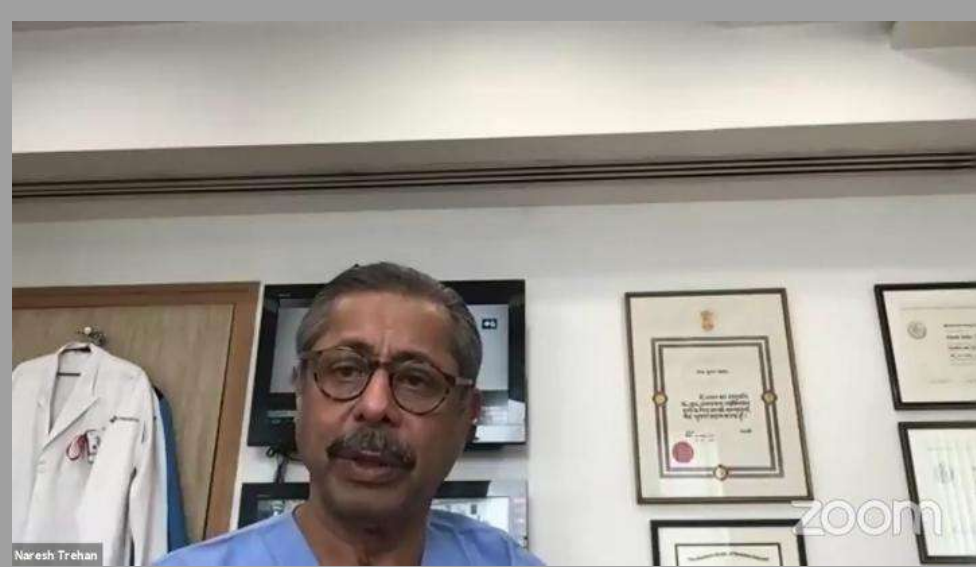
# RGS SPEAKER SERIES

The RGS Speaker Series is a new initiative taken up by our school to conduct webinars on various subjects which feature individuals across different occupational backgrounds. These webinars are highly informative and insightful in the matter that they cover. Through these, our school has also hosted renowned persons such as



celebrity author and nutritionist Rujuta Diwekar, Chairman and Managing Director of Medanta, Gurugram, Dr. Naresh

Trehan, and best-selling children's author Roopa Pai. Each of these individuals have covered different themes in webinars which have been made accessible to the entire student community. Other webinars have featured subjects such as social media usage, mental health, competitive examinations, sports, as well as environmental conservation.







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