

# THE RE-IMAGINING MEDIA PROGRAM



Edition 1  
1st Oct - 31st Oct 2022

PROGRAM REPORT

# In Numbers



26 students

across



10 schools

Mayor World School, Jalandhar  
Oakridge International School, Bengaluru  
Mayoor International School, Noida  
Shiv Nadar School, Noida  
Delhi Public School, Jorhat  
Delhi Public School, Khanapara  
Sanskriti the Gurukul  
Pawar Public School, Hadapsar  
Army Public School, Udhampur  
Stepping Stones Senior Secondary School, Chandigarh

## Program Publishing Partner



Youth Ki Awaaz is India's largest student writing platform,  
with a community of over 136K bloggers and 4 million+  
monthly readers.

# *Program Highlights*



★ Via News Didi ★

# Opening Ceremony @The Re- Imagining Media Program



As we began the **Re-Imagining Media Program**, our Chief Guest, Anshul Tewari, Founder of Youth Ki Awaaz addressed our budding student journalists on the importance of using their voice for change, his journey in establishing Youth Ki Awaaz, and the impact that journalism can create!



## Feedback from students

*"Anshul Sir inspired us to raise our voice against injustice. We should regularly read the news so that we are about the activities that are taking place around the globe."*

*"After hearing Anshul Sir, I feel like a person can alone do anything, just like he did!"*

# Session 1

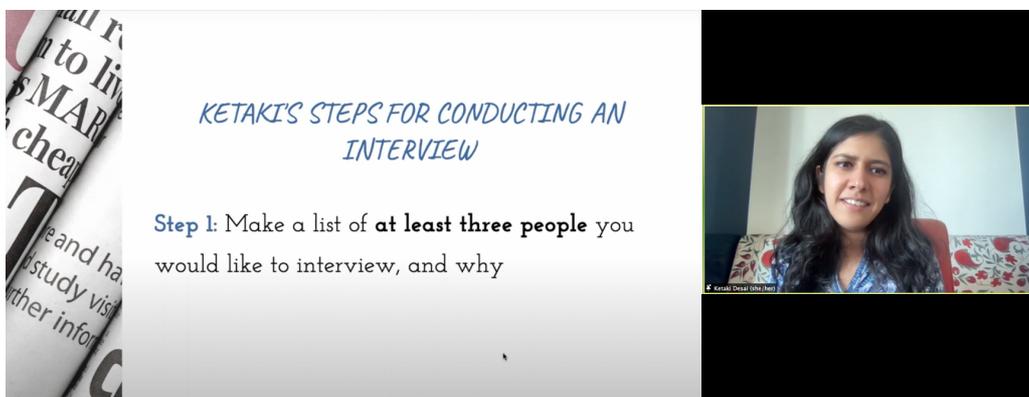
## Conducting Interviews Effectively



Students learnt how interviews value to a news story and how to conduct interviews effectively. In a role play activity, students conducted interviews and received feedback from Ketaki on their questions and more.

*"I had a lot of fun. I was really impressed with everyone's responses to the activities and their questions and perspectives. It was wonderful and I enjoyed it thoroughly!"*

**Ketaki Desai- Sr. Correspondent, Times of India (Session Mentor)**



### Student work that stood out:

*"The articles I read were negative and biased"*

Kavya Krishnan from Oakridge International School, Bangalore wrote a feature on her grandmother's relationship with the news.

*"Young India is not reading the news and the reasons are not surprising"*

The Initiators wrote an insightful article on News Avoidance among the Youth, and what young people they interviewed had to say about it!

### Feedback from students

*"The session was absolutely amazing and I learnt a lot of new things. It was truly a great experience to be a part of the session."*

*"Ketaki Ma'am pointed out that it is very important to make sure that the person you are interviewing is comfortable. I find this tip great!"*

## Session 2

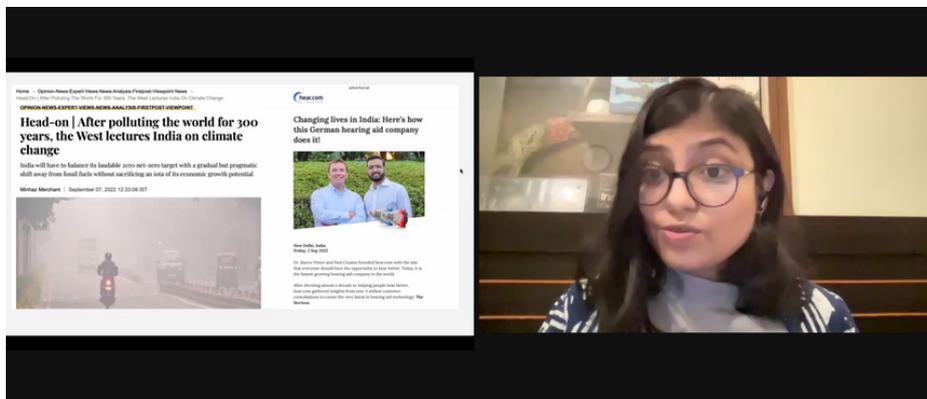
# Propaganda and Responsible News Consumption



Students learnt to differentiate between news, opinion and propaganda. Through real-life examples and Neera's guidance, students learnt all about propaganda, how to identify it and stay safe from it!

*"Sometimes in journalism you lose perspective of who you do it for, and then I see these enthusiastic bunch of really good questioning students, it made me feel great!"*

Neera Majumdar, Sr. Asst. Editor, The Print (Session Mentor)



### Student work that stood out:

["Here's Why I Feel Betrayed After Reading News Covered in our Country"](#)

Ananya Kakar from Mayoor International School, Noida wrote an opinion article on propaganda and how we often get tricked by it!

["How to Become a Pro at Fighting Fake News"](#)

Write or Flight wrote an excellent article that teaches readers some handy tips on staying safe from propaganda!

### Feedback from students

*"It was interesting and informative and I got to learn a lot of things, especially, the difference between News, Opinion and Propaganda!"*

*"Today, I learnt that we should read the news carefully. No profession is safe so we should not be afraid to choose journalism as our profession!"*

## Session 3

# Disinformation and Fact-Checking!



Students learnt about misinformation, disinformation and just how fake news spreads. Through some role-play, some self-reflection and Sonia's handy strategies on becoming pro fact-checkers, students learnt to navigate misinformation and disinformation!

*"It's critical to empower audiences so that they ask questions and know what questions to ask. And the younger we start the better, as this needs to be inculcated as a habit!"*

**Sonia Bhaskar, Head, TV-Web Synergy, NDTV (Session Mentor)**

**SEARCH RELEVANT PARTS OF THE IMAGE**

- Crop the different parts of the image and search them separately
- Remove the background of the image using [remove.bg](https://remove.bg) tool and then reverse search it.

**removebg**

**Student work that stood out:**

["Why is Countering Misinformation Important in a Country Like Ours?"](#)

Write or Flight created a power-packed, meme filled article on the impact that misinformation can have on a democracy!

**Feedback from students**

*"Sonia ma'am gave outstanding ways to filter what we read! I enjoyed all the activities and participated actively!"*

## Session 4

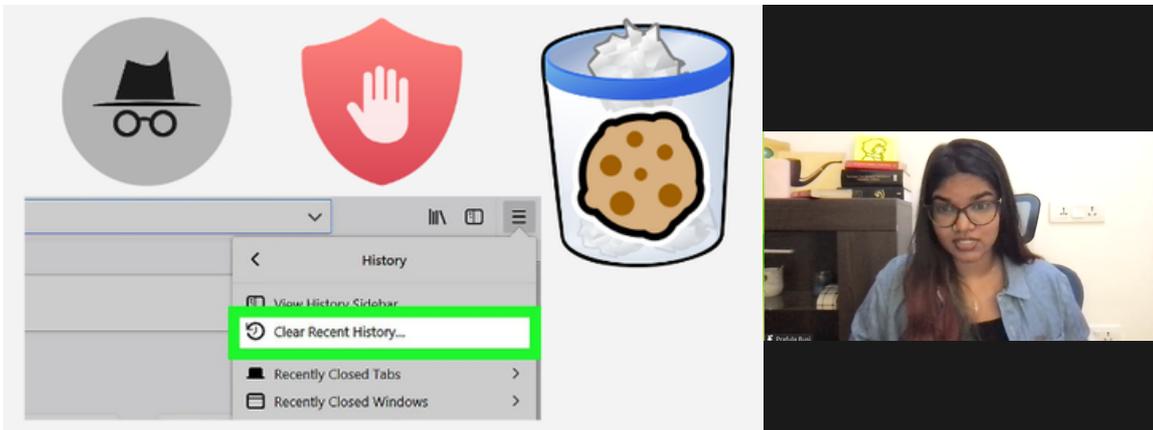
# Filter Bubbles and Echo Chambers!



Students learnt about social media algorithms, filter bubbles and echo chambers, as well as how to stay safe from them online. After creating their own filter bubbles and experiencing a real-life echo chamber, Prafula's tips helped students with strategies to navigate the web safely!

*"The discussions that I was a part of with the students were so interesting. They had a fresh perspective on situations. So it was a learning experience for me as well!"*

**Busi Prafula Grace, ex Asst. Editor, splainer.in (Session Mentor)**



## Students' Memes on Misinformation!



## Session 5

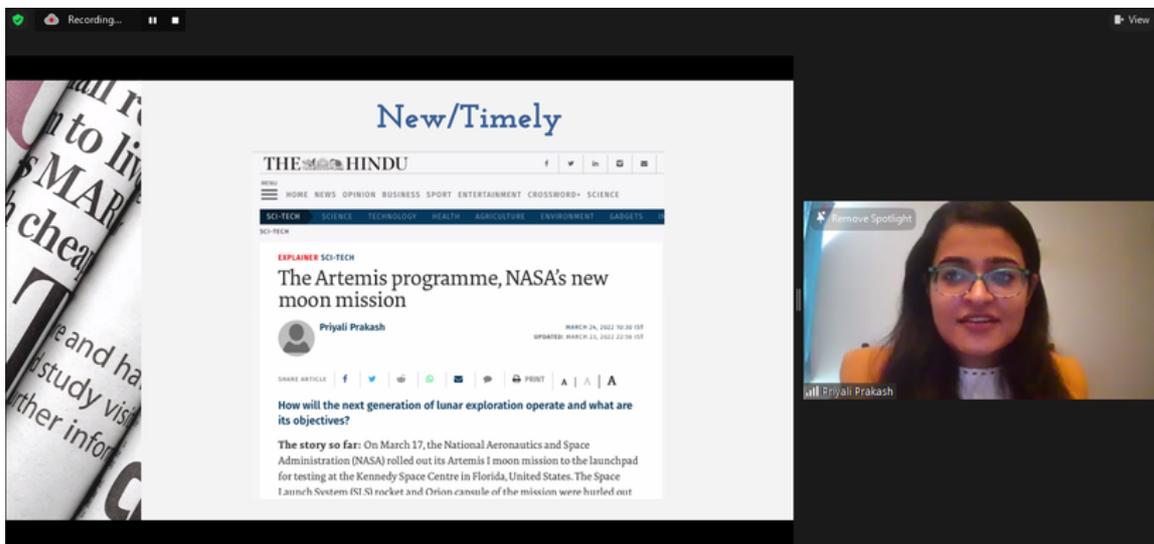
# What Makes a Story Newsworthy!



Students identified the elements of newsworthiness and learnt to use them to create a newsworthy story! In breakout rooms, students identified a local story to write about and added the elements of newsworthiness to it, with Priyali's guidance.

*"I liked how easygoing it was, and that the students showed up on a sleepy Sunday afternoon and actually took interest and asked questions!"*

**Priyali Prakash, Principal Staff Writer, The Hindu (Session Mentor)**



### Student work that stood out:

*"Red Alarm on Climate Change: 'We need to panic as our future is in danger'"*

*"Art Attack: Blurring the Line Between Social Activism and Vandalism"*

The Initiators crafted 2 newsworthy stories on the recent climate protests!

### Feedback from students

*"Priyali Ma'am's session was very informative and she shared newsworthy points which were worth noting down! 😊"*

*"This was an amazing session. I will definitely think about how my readers will relate to my story before writing it!"*

# Session 6

## Writing Data-Driven Stories!



Students examined the use of data in various types of news stories and learnt from Tanay how to use data in their own news stories. Through carefully chosen case studies and easy-to-use data visualization tools, students dove into the world of data-driven stories for the very first time!

*"Brilliant students, I'm awestruck by their understanding of the topic (writing data-driven stories)!"*

Tanay Sukumar, Editor (Data), Mint (Session Mentor)



## Feedback from students

*"Today's session was amazing, I took away a lot of important tips and I understood how I can make my writing better by using data in the right way!"*

# Session 7

## Using Intentional Language in Writing!



Students examined news reports to understand how words can impact our perception and more. Through Nandita's case studies and tips, they learnt that news media needs to be more intentional in the way they wrote, and how they can get started on doing that too!

*"By equipping students with the tools to interact with media efficiently and substantively, we're helping shape their sense of society, as well as their current (and future) place in it!"*

**Nandita Singh, Freelance Content Writer (Session Mentor)**



**Person-first language vs identity-first language:**

- Person with dwarfism; dwarf
- A person with a substance use disorder; an alcoholic
- A person with an impairment/a disability; disabled person; the disabled

**Emphasize abilities, not limitations**

- Person who uses a wheelchair; wheelchair-bound

**Do not use language that suggests a lack of something: victim, invalid, defective.**

- Congenital disability; Birth defect
- Burn survivor; burn victim

**Use language that emphasizes the need for accessibility rather than the presence of a disability.**

- Accessible parking; handicapped parking

**Mentally Ill Man Kills Wife, 8-Year-Old Son Over Family Dispute In Bihar**

**Shah Rukh Khan's Zero: A look at the representation of vertically challenged people in Bollywood**

**"Sasural Simar Ka" fame Vaishali Thakkar commits suicide at her Indore home**

**Medical Student Dies By Suicide In Meerut, Her Batchmate Arrested**

Remove Spotlight

Nandita Singh

## Feedback from students

*"Using the right words to refer to people is a tip I will never forget. To do this I should also not hesitate to ask questions (which is something I will start working on from today)!"*

# Weekly Coaching Calls @The Re-Imagining Media Program



In each week of the program, students were coached on some essential skills that would help them write stunning articles.

## Some topics discussed were:

Writing an eye-catching headline

Crafting the lede of your story

Structuring your article using the Inverted Pyramid

Creating a visually appealing story

Writing a solutions-focussed story

**What can you notice about the characters in this story?**

"We can change routes if we get a bunch of students in one area," Wilson said. "If we had 40 students in Manhattan Beach, we would more than likely have a bus that would go there, but because we don't have that many [students], it's just a few stops."

The Oracle sent a survey to the student body to hear about their specific experiences while riding the bus. Students were given the opportunity to respond in multiple-choice format to statements regarding their connections to their peers, and overall ridership experience, and were given the chance to explain their answers in a short response format. Out of 505 students, 128 responded.

**Ridership Experience**

1.) I feel connected to the students on my bus.

Response	Percentage
True	21.09%
Somewhat true	20.3%
Not true	58.59%

2.) I have a good experience while riding my bus.

Response	Percentage
True	20.3%
Somewhat true	21.09%
Not true	58.59%

When asked if they felt connected to their peers on the bus on a scale from one to three, one being true and three being not at all true, 21.09% of students responded with one, 20.3% responded with three and 58.59% of students said the statement somewhat applied to their experience on the bus.

"No one talks to each other except if they are friends, but most people are on their phones. I am only close friends with two people on my bus, and we rarely get to sit next to each other," a respondent wrote.

Another student commented on their morning routine and arrival time, highlighting the lack of seating on their bus.

"My stop is earliest in the morning which means getting up earlier than others. Also, there are so many people on my bus that sometimes we need to sit in threes — it would be nice for once if I could just sit alone with my two big bags," the respondent wrote.

Some students expressed they created positive connections with their peers while riding the bus. According to senior Chloe

**Empower-ed**

Sukriti (she/her), Via News...

Empower-ed

PARI RANA

Rekha team 8

Rekha team 8

Janshi Garg

Janshi Garg

## Feedback from students

*"The session was very helpful and all doubts and queries were answered."*

*"The way the Via News Didi team gives feedback to each and every member is commendable. I feel immensely proud to be a part of the Re-Imagining Media Program."*

*"The calls were very helpful for me. I liked the way topics were simply explained. Not only coaching calls, but all the sessions were useful and productive."*

# Closing Ceremony @The Re-Imagining Media Program



As the Re-Imagining Media Program came to a close, participants were rewarded for their stellar work through awards like

## the 'Most Likely to Ace Research' award

Awarded to **Meir Singh Pandher** and **Rishima Sachdeva** (Mayor World School, Jalandhar) for their notable reserach skills in crafting the most informative and inightful articles;

## the 'Most Likely to Set News Viral Trends' award

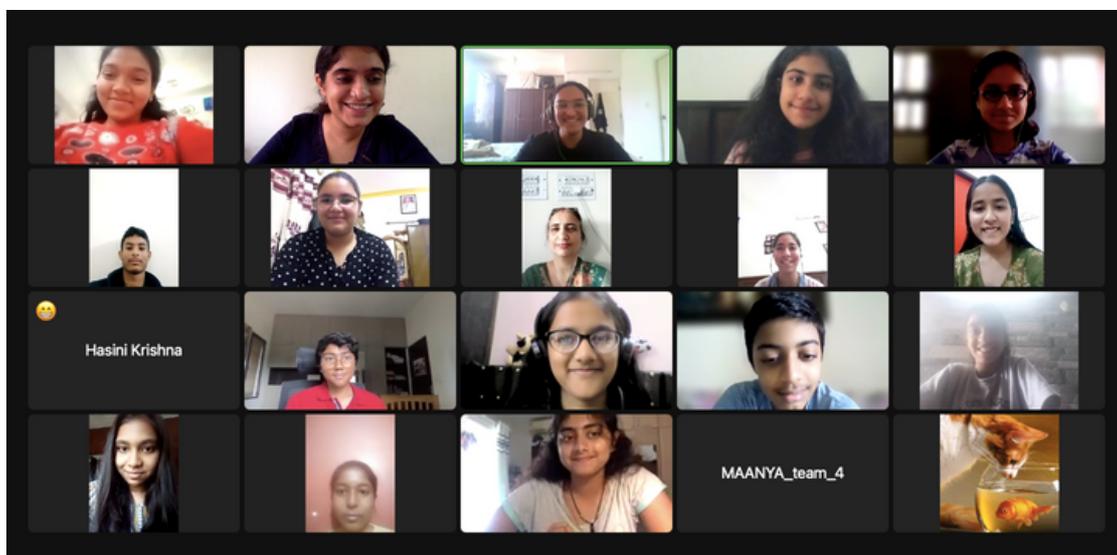
Awarded to **Advaita Mehrotra** (Oakridge International School, Bengaluru) and **Rekha Kumari** (Stepping Stones Senior Secondary School, Chandigarh) for their articles that garnered the most views of all teams;

## the 'Most Likely to Survive and Thrive in a Newsroom' award

Awarded to **Janshi Garg** (Stepping Stones Senior Secondary School, Chandigarh) and **Avantika Sehgal** (Shiv Nadar School, Noida) for their tenacity in the face of deadlines and stellar work no matter what, and

## the 'Most Likely to be a Pro-Journalist' award

Awarded to **Kavya Krishnan** (Oakridge International School, Bengaluru), **Devshree Patil** (Pawar Public School, Hadapsar), **Ananya Kakar** (Mayoor International School, Noida) and **Hasini Krishna** (Oakridge International School, Bengaluru) for their overall excellence throughout the program, and their stellar journalistic work!



# Student Work @The Re-Imagining Media Program



★ Via News Didi ★

As part of the Re-Imagining Media Program, our budding student journalists created articles that gave their readers insights into topics like news avoidance, propaganda, misinformation, and local stories that they saw around them! Say hello to our 6 teams and sample their work by clicking on their team names!

## [Team 1, a.k.a. Spilling the Tea](#)

*In their words,*

"Hello people! This is Rishima, Nimar, Cheryl and Meir. We're telling you about everything you need to know but don't."

*Rishima, Nimar, Cheryl and Meir are grade 9 students at Mayor World School, Jalandhar.*

## [Team 3, a.k.a. The Initiators](#)

*In their words,*

"A team account run by Ananya Kakar, Avantika Sehgal and Pardhavi Kilaru under Via News Didi's Re-Imagining Media program." *Ananya is a grade 11 student at Mayoor International School, Noida, while Avantika and Pardhavi are grade 8 students from Shiv Nadar School, Noida and Delhi Public School, Jorhat, respectively.*

## [Team 7, a.k.a. The Truthful Talks](#)

*In their words,*

"News, News, News! We really rely on news and blindly trust them but is it really trustable? We try to uncover these things using the help of our mentors who are professional journalists and bust whether the news can be trusted or not on "The Truthful Talks!"

*Dhruv, Spandan, Avni and Harshita are grade 9 and 10 students at Stepping Stones Senior Secondary School, Chandigarh.*

## [Team 2, a.k.a. Write or Flight](#)

*In their words,*

"Write or flight is a play on the phrase fight or flight. It means that we can run away from our problems or write about them and bring awareness to them."

*Advaita, Maya, Hasini and Kavya are grade 8, 9 and 12 students at Oakridge International School, Bengaluru.*

## [Team 4, a.k.a. Fake News Warriors](#)

*In their words,*

"An attempt in providing you with some illuminating news by Abhilasha, Aditya, Aseem, Devshree and Maanya."

*Devshree and Aseem are grade 9 students at Pawar Public School, Hadapsar, Maanya is a grade 9 student at Army Public School, Udhampur, Aditya is a grade 11 student at Delhi Public School, Khanapara, and Abhilasha is a grade 12 student at Sanskriti the Gurukul.*

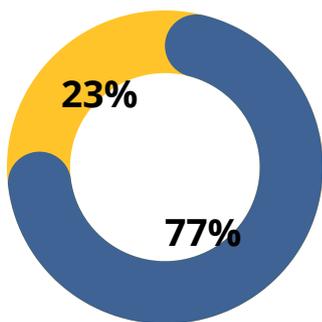
## [Team 8, a.k.a. The Roaring Youth](#)

*In their words,*

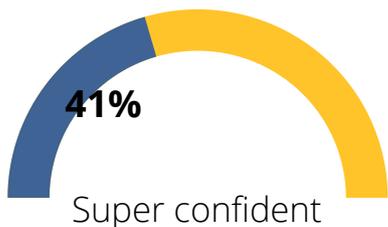
"A team account run by Rekha Kumari, Janshi, Pari Rana, Divyansha and Aditi Pandit from Stepping Stones Sr. Sec. School, 37D Chandigarh as a part of Re-Imagining Media Program!"

*Rekha, Janshi, Aditi, Divyansha and Pari are grade 9 and 10 students from Stepping Stones Senior Secondary School, Chandigarh*

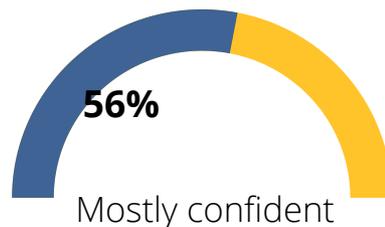
# Our Key Learnings from the Program!



Across all conducted sessions, 77% of our budding students journalists reported having **'absolutely loved the sessions'**, while the other 23% of participants **'mostly enjoyed the sessions'**!



Super confident



Mostly confident

On average, **41%** of our students felt **super confident** to write their assignments at the end of each session, while **56%** of our students felt **mostly confident** to get cracking on their assignments!



93%

**93%** of our budding journalists found the weekly coaching calls **beneficial** and **relevant** to their assignments!



In surveys conducted by our student journalists, they found that **over 84%** of their respondents had, at some point, **come across fake news**.

**53%** of the respondents had either **shared fake news** with people they knew, or were **unsure if what they shared was fake or not!**

*Through the Re-Imagining Media Program, we want to work with budding students journalists from across the country. If you have any ideas, suggestions or references to share, please reach out to us at [vianewsdidi@gmail.com](mailto:vianewsdidi@gmail.com)!*