

Rhetorque Events 2020 - 2021

Axiom 2021

Rhetorque conducted its 9th edition of Annual Inter-University Parliamentary Debate, AXIOM, from 20th to 22nd February 2021. This event is eagerly anticipated by many eminent colleges of the University of Delhi and other prestigious universities all over India. Although the event was conducted online this year, keeping in mind the current pandemic and the safety of participants, nevertheless, it turned out to be a mega-event and an even bigger success than the previous years.

The entire competition had 5 preliminary rounds where the teams with top scores advance to the quarter final round, then eventually to the semi-final and final rounds.

Registrations took place on 20th February, 2020 through the respective discord servers. The team cap was set at 36 institutions belonging from various parts of India.

The equity team consisting of Abheepsita Purkayastha, Muskaan Grover and Arjun Madan briefed the debaters about the maintenance of the tournament's decorum and harmony. As a result, the tournament was conducted without any grievances, which was another feather in the cap for JDMC hosts.

The competition commenced post briefing by the core adjudicators: Ajatshatru Rawat and Shruti Deb. The teams competed simultaneously in break rooms in Mixidea or Discord, with different adjudicators. Participants were provided with short breaks after every round while the scores were calculated and matchups were made.

Day 2 also commenced with teams logging in through their respective discord servers, waiting excitedly for motions for Round 3 and 4 to be released. The competition progressed seamlessly and quickly with 8 teams breaking and proceeding to compete in quarters.

The third day saw keen competition among the eight teams and the excitement was palpable. After the quarter finals 4 teams competed in semi finals and two teams braved their way into the finals.

After exploring over 25 motions across different disciplines, the climactic final round of the grand debate took place. Team Ex AUD/DRC/MH comprising Ishaan Chawdhary (Ex AUD), Lipi Chawla (DRC) and Tejasvi Yadav (MH) won the tournament, while team too tall 2.0- Pratyush Chakraborty, Aditya Sarin (SBSC) and Ritvik (CBS) were the runners up.

The best adjudicator of the tournament was Mehul Joshi from SRCC and the second- best adjudicator was Tanay Tarak Tewari from SRCC. The third position went to Ansh from SBSC while the fourth position was shared by Riya Sethi from SRCC and Antara Ranjan from DSNLU.

Attracting an unprecedented wide participation online from different Universities across India, the tournament was a resounding success and garnered appreciation from the entire DU debating circuit.



Poster of Axiom, Annual Parliamentary Debate, conducted from 20 February 2021 to 22 February 2021

Jabberwocky 2021

Rhetorque- The English Debating Society of Janki Devi Memorial College, organised the Annual Turncoat Debate Competition, *Jabberwocky*, on 3 February, 2021 at 12:00 PM, as part of *Symphony*, the Annual Festival of JDMC. The turncoat format enables speakers to present arguments both for and against a motion and is a true test of oratory.

The event took place on Zoom and witnessed impassioned speakers from 35 different colleges who presented well- structured arguments on over 30 motions spanning a wide spectrum of disciplines and spheres. The online platform enabled participation from colleges outside Delhi which was an exciting opportunity for the audience. The participants debated on pop culture, social media, mental health, the media industries, economics, and many more interesting topics.

Jabberwocky 2021 had two panelists, Ms. Geetanjali Sotie and Ms. Jaya Yadav, each of them well-known in their fields. Ms. Geetanjali Sotie has been associated with the education industry since 1994, and has been a Sociology and Psychology lecturer at the Institute of Public Health and Hygiene for several years. She is also a visiting Guest Lecturer at innumerable IP affiliated Colleges. Ms. Jaya Yadav is an Assistant Professor at the Department of English, Janki Devi Memorial College. She is also a PhD scholar at the University of Delhi, working on re-imagining South Asia through an interdisciplinary lens focusing on literary representations of intersections of historiography, migration and borders.

The winners of the debate competition were announced by the judges, both of whom gave valuable feedback and tips to the participants for improving debating skills with special attention to concise structuring of arguments and making a dignified presentation.

Attractive prizes and certificates were bagged by the following winners:

First Prize: Shreya, Patna Women's College

Second Prize: Rohan, Kirorimal College and Mukul, PGDAV College

Third Prize: Nimisha, Miranda College and Ishani, Jesus and Mary College

Special Mentions: Maheen, Lady Shri Ram College for Women and Raghav, ARSD College

Best Interjector: Nimisha Pathak, Miranda House

In light of the fact that Jabberwocky was organized online for the first time ever, the core organising committee as well as the conveners Dr. Namita Sethi, Ms. Grace Suparna and Ms. Ruchi Kalita, were delighted to host a stimulating session that progressed seamlessly with

animated participation from across the country. The Principal, Staff Advisors, Students Union and the entire Rhetorque students' team made this a very successful event indeed.

Link for Recording of Jabberwocky 2021: <https://youtu.be/92FVnSjRfN0>



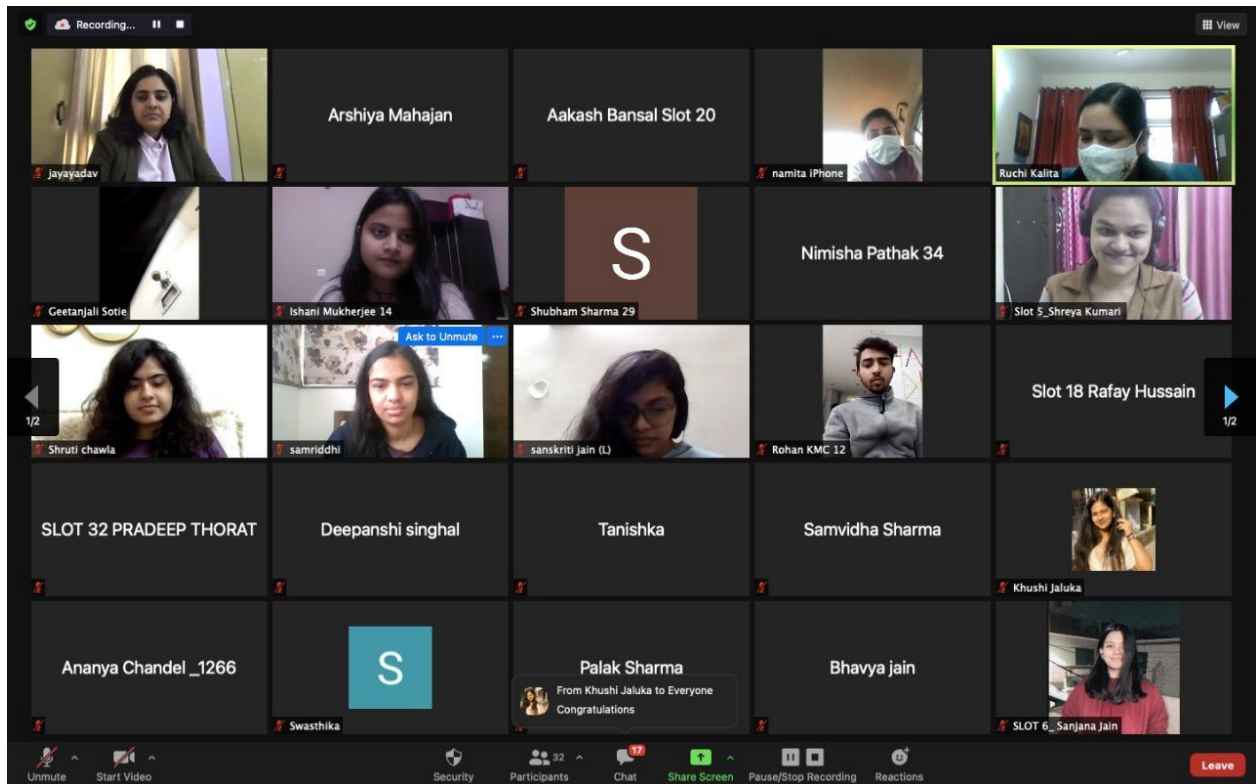
Poster of Jabberwocky: Annual Turncoat Debate conducted as part of Symphony 2021 held on 3 February 2021



Ms Jaya Yadav, Judge, at Jabberwocky: Annual Turncoat Debate conducted on Zoom as part of Symphony 2021 held on 3 February 2021



Nimisha, the Winner of the Third Prize and Best Interjector, at Jabberwocky: Annual Turncoat Debate as part of Symphony 2021 held on 3 February 2021



A Glimpse from Jabberwocky: Annual Turncoat Debate as part of Symphony 2021 held on 3 February 2021

Freshers' Debate

Rhetorque, the English Debating Society, held its Annual Freshers' Debate Competition, in online mode, on January 21, 2021. The Society used its own Zoom handle and generated much excitement among the members as well as the participants and audience who were first year students eagerly awaiting the competition.

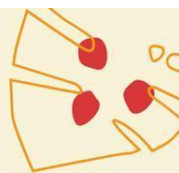
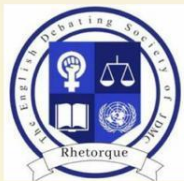
The competitors were given a choice between two motions:

- a) This house believes that political humour is an unfair basis for any corrective legal action.
- b) This house regrets the ‘memefication’ of sadness.

The event was judged by Mr Tarun Sharma, Associate Professor of English and Ms Muskan Grover, an avid debater and ex core team-member of the Debating Society.

A total of 17 students put forth their arguments with great rigour. The first prize was won by Saumya Vig, B.A. Hons Economics. Purvika Bhambhani, of B.A. Hons. Sociology bagged the second prize, Deepanshi, B.Com. Prog., won the third prize and Aditi Singh, B.A. Hons. Philosophy, was adjudged the Best Interjector. The judges for the event were Ms. Muskaan Grover, a former office bearer of the Society and Mr. Tarun Sharma, Assistant Professor, English Department. The judges gave valuable advice to all the speakers at the end of the event. Attractive prizes and Certificates were awarded to the winners.

Link for Recording of Annual Freshers Debate: <https://youtu.be/NKnYSPOwIGo>



RHETORQUE

THE ENGLISH DEBATING SOCIETY
OF JANKI DEVI MEMORIAL COLLEGE
PRESENTS

ANNUAL FRESHERS DEBATE A CONVENTIONAL DEBATE COMPETITION

TOPICS

1. THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THAT POLITICAL BASED
HUMOUR IS AN UNFAIR BASIS FOR ANY
CORRECTIVE LEGAL ACTION

OR

2. THIS HOUSE REGRETS THE MEMEIFICATION OF
SADNESS

**SPEAKING TIME: 3 MINUTES
+2 INTERJECTIONS EACH SPEAKER**

DATE-21ST JAN 2021

LOGIN TIME - 2:30PM

TIME- 3PM

PLATFORM- ZOOM

Meeting ID: 971 7987 4352

Passcode: mY2u5W

MEDIUM - ENGLISH

FOR QUERIES, CONTACT:

ARSHIYA: +91 8283886993

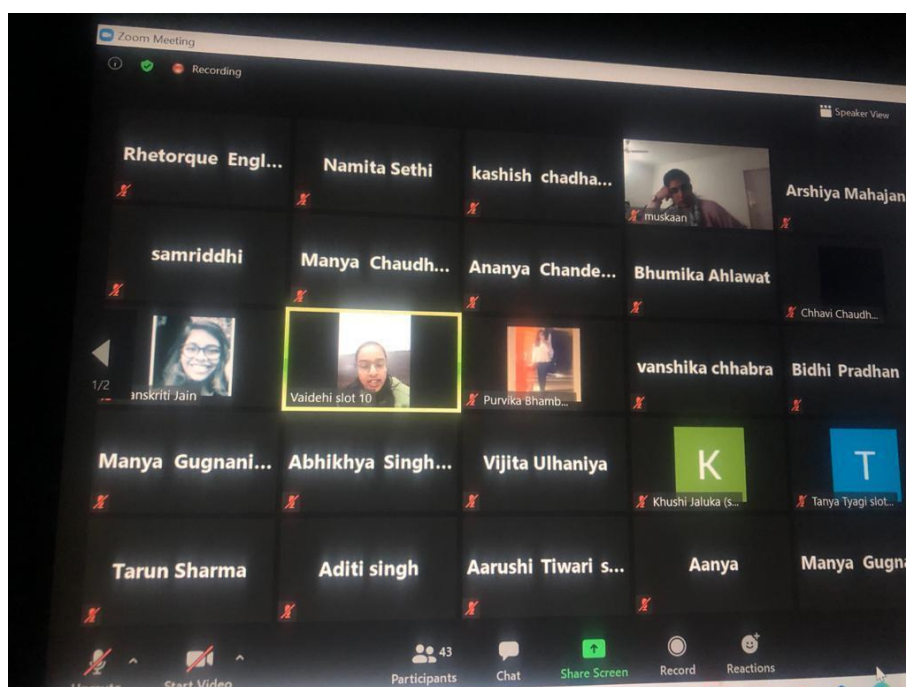
VANSHIKA: +91 7291995074

PROF. SWATI PAL
PRINCIPAL

Poster of the Annual Freshers' Debate Competition held on 21 January 2021



The Judge, Ms. Muskaan Grover, judging the Annual Freshers' Debate Competition held on 21 January 2021



A Glimpse of the Annual Freshers' Debate Competition held on 21 January 2021

Virtual Webinar & Online Debate Competition Conducted as part of Vigilance Awareness Week at JDMC

Patron: Prof. Swati Pal (Principal, JDMC)

Co-ordinators of the Programme:

Rhetorque - Dr Namita Sethi, Ms Grace Suparna & Ms Ruchi Kalita

Abhivyakti - Dr Sudha Upadhyaya & Dr Rajani Bala Anuragi

Student Co-ordinators: Samridhi, Arshiya, Jyotsna, Divya, Vanshika & Sanskriti

As part of the Vigilance Awareness Week, from 27 October to 2 November 2020, a virtual bilingual webinar and an online bilingual debate was organized on 2 November 2020, by Janki Devi Memorial College and its two societies: Rhetorque, the English Debating Society and Abhivyakti, the Hindi Debating Society. This year the event was organized in compliance with the directives of the UGC, for the **Central Vigilance Commission**, whose overall theme for this year was: “Vigilant India, Prosperous India”, “*Satark Bharat, Samarth Bharat*”. The event was well publicized by the Students’ Union, the two societies and the Staff Advisors.

A key sub-theme was identified to give focus to the main theme: to explore the scope of the Right to Information Act as a tool to address corruption. To this effect, two speakers were invited to enlighten the students and faculty about aspects of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

The Principal and the two speakers along with the judges were welcomed by Dr Namita Sethi and the Principal addressed the audience. She led the integrity pledge and conducted it in Hindi, followed by in English as about 50 participants of the event, repeated the pledge after her. She

spoke about various aspects of the pledge that was undertaken and also about the true meaning of integrity.

The first speaker Mr Venkatesh Nayak, an advocate of transparency and the recipient of the Best RTI Activist award, given by the Anti-Corruption Academy in 2018, spoke to the students on the topic: “RTI as a Citizen’s Tool to Fight Corruption”. He made use of his considerable experience as someone who has trained about 7600 government officers in various jurisdictions, as an advisor to PSUs for implementing RTI and as someone who advises the general public for free about the access to and the applications of RTI. He took students’ questions patiently and graciously judged the ensuing debate as well.

The second speaker, Ms Chander Nigam, an activist and advocate, spoke on the subject: “*Soochna ka Adhikar, Kitna Asardar*”. She was introduced by Ms Divya Garg of Abhivyakti. This presentation too educated the audience about the applications and limitations governing RTI. Ms Nigam critiqued privatisation as in her opinion, it inhibits the efficacy of RTI.

The discussion following the two talks was succeeded by the bilingual debate, whose rules were introduced by the student conveners of both societies. Ms. Grace Suparna announced details about the prizes.

There were two topics and students had the choice to speak in Hindi or English, and to speak for or against the topic, and to answer interjections: all this made for a very stimulating session. The motions of the Debate were:

1. RTI is an effective tool to address corruption/ RTI *bhrashtachaar unmoolan ka prabhavi madhyam hai*

2. This house believes that corruption has become an intrinsic part of citizens' daily lives and can't be sidestepped effectively/*Bhrashtachaar hamaare Jeevan ka abhinna ang ban chuka hai; isse bachna mushkil hai.*




The event was judged by Mr Venkatesh Nayak and Mr Tarun Sharma, Asst. Professor, English Dept., JDMC. Both the judges congratulated the participants and offered valuable guidance. The winners of this Intra-College Debate were:

1st Prize: Aditi Mrinal

2nd Prize: Divya Garg

3rd Prize (tie): Sheetal Kumar and Vironica

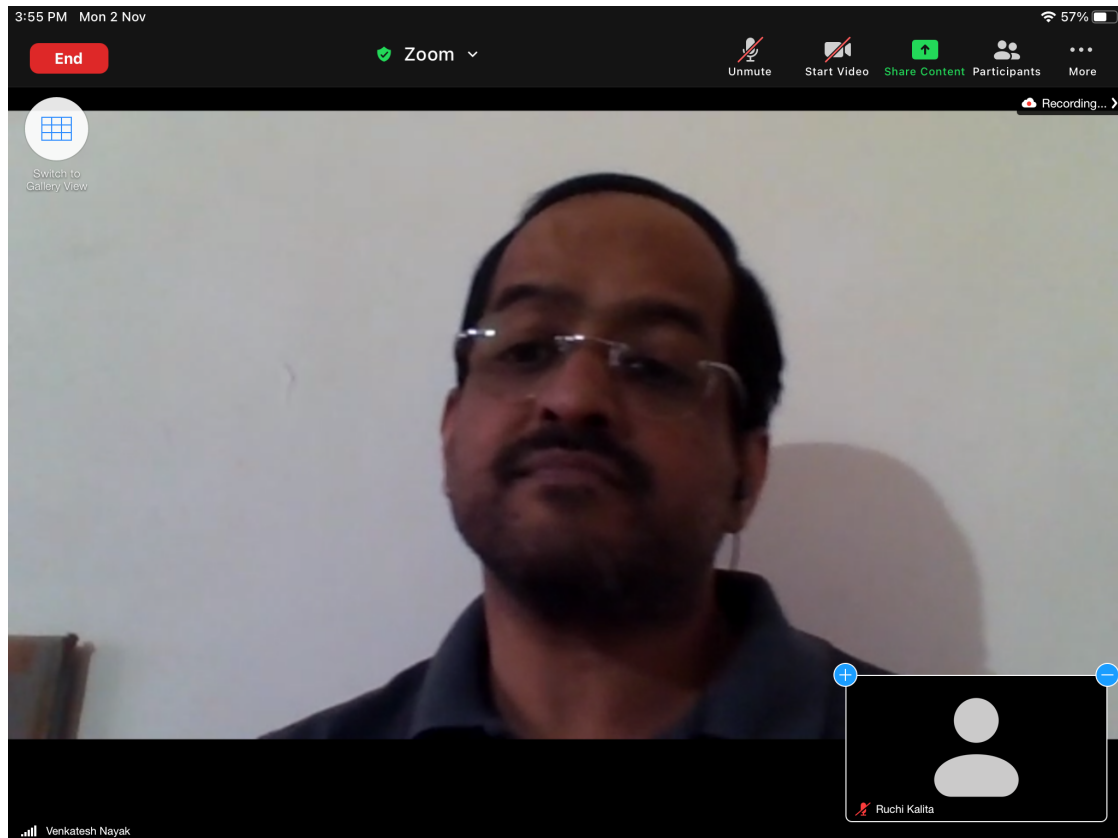
Best Interjector: Vironica

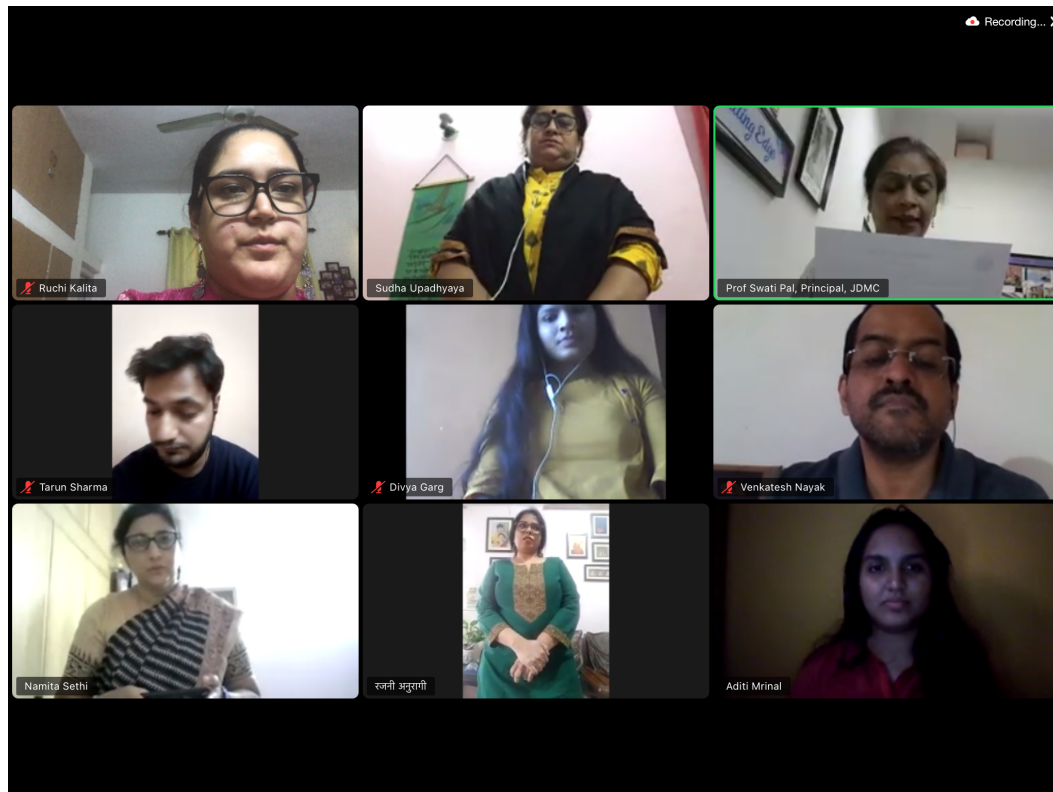
JANKI DEVI MEMORIAL COLLEGE
RHETORQUE- THE ENGLISH DEBATING SOCIETY AND
ABHIVYAKTI- THE HINDI DEBATING SOCIETY IN ASSOCIATION
WITH CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION
under the aegis of UGC present
Virtual Webinar
Topic- RTI as citizens' tool to fight corruption
Speaker: Mr. Venkatesh Nayak
विषय- सूचना का अधिकार : कितना असरदार
वक्ता : चंदर निगम, सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता और अधिवक्ता
Followed by
Bilingual Debate
Motion 1:
RTI is an effective tool to address corruption.
आर टी आई भ्रष्टाचार उन्मूलन का प्रभावी माध्यम है |
OR
Motion 2
This house believes that corruption has become an intrinsic part of citizens' daily lives and can't be sidestepped effectively.
भ्रष्टाचार हमारे जीवन का अभिन्न अंग बन चुका है ,इससे बचना मुश्किल है।
TO REGISTER, KINDLY FILL IN THE ATTACHED FORM.
In case of any query kindly contact the undersigned:
Samriddhi (English): 9560145245
Jyotsana (Hindi): 9599438081
Co-ordinators:
Rhetorque: Namita Sethi, Ruchi Kalita, Grace Suparna
Abhivyakti: Sudha Upadhyaya, Rajani Bala Anuragi
PATRON
PROF SWATI PAL
PRINCIPAL

Date: 2nd November, 2020
Time: 3:30 PM
(Login by 3:00 PM)
Platform: Zoom
Meeting ID: 880 376 3152
Passcode: 432514

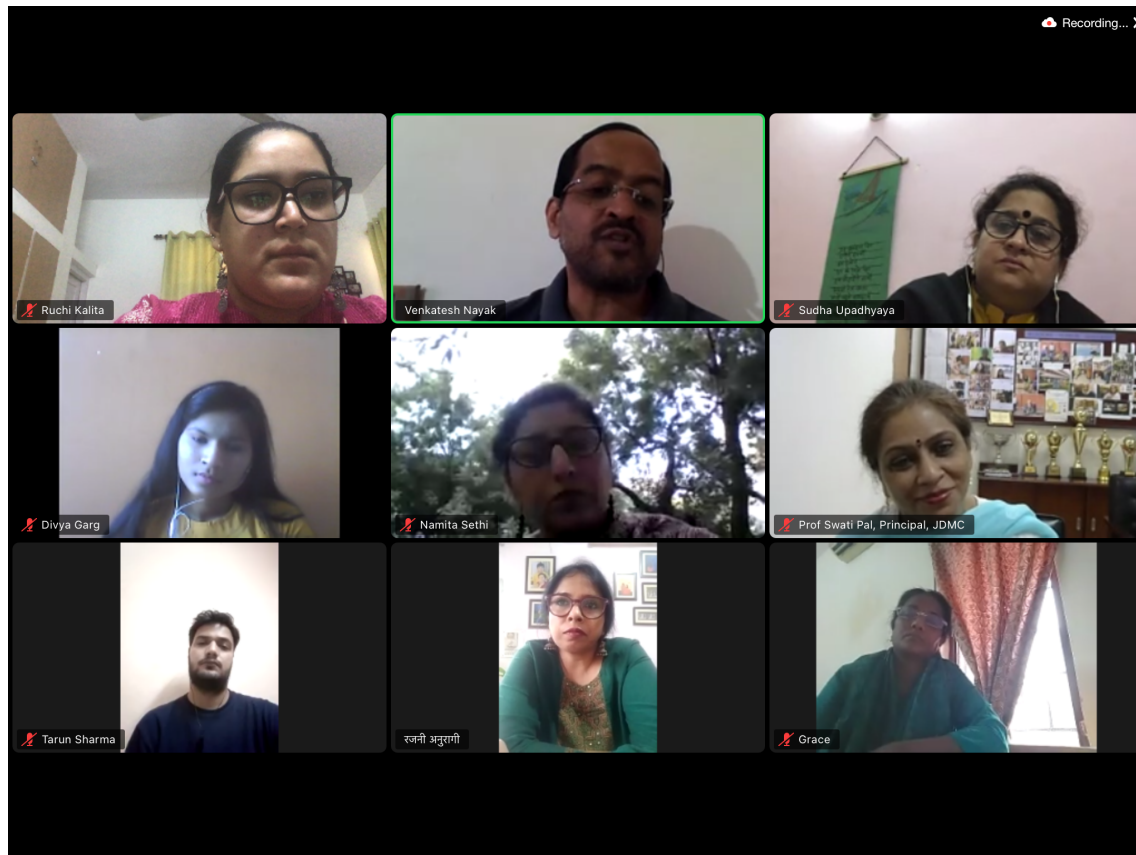
Poster of the Virtual Webinar and Online Debate Competition Conducted as part of Vigilance Awareness Week on 2 November 2020



Mr. Venkatesh Nayak addressing the Audience during the Virtual Webinar and Online Debate Competition Conducted as part of Vigilance Awareness Week on 2 November 2020



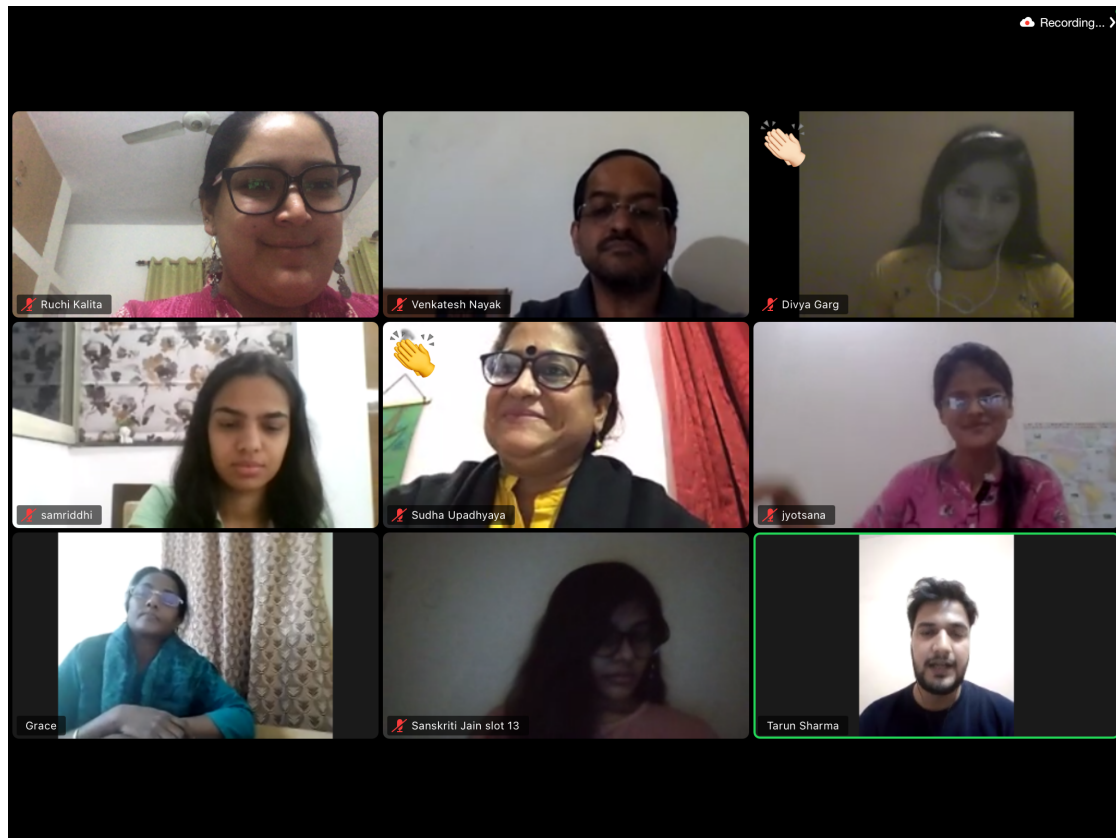
The Principal, Prof. Swati Pal, leading the Integrity Pledge during the Virtual Webinar and Online Debate Competition Conducted as part of Vigilance Awareness Week on 2 November 2020



Glimpses from the Virtual Webinar and Online Debate Competition Conducted as part of
Vigilance Awareness Week on 2 November 2020



Ms. Chander Nigam addressing the Audience during the Virtual Webinar and Online Debate
Competition Conducted as part of Vigilance Awareness Week on 2 November 2020



Announcement of the Results during the Virtual Webinar and Online Debate Competition
Conducted as part of Vigilance Awareness Week on 2 November 2020

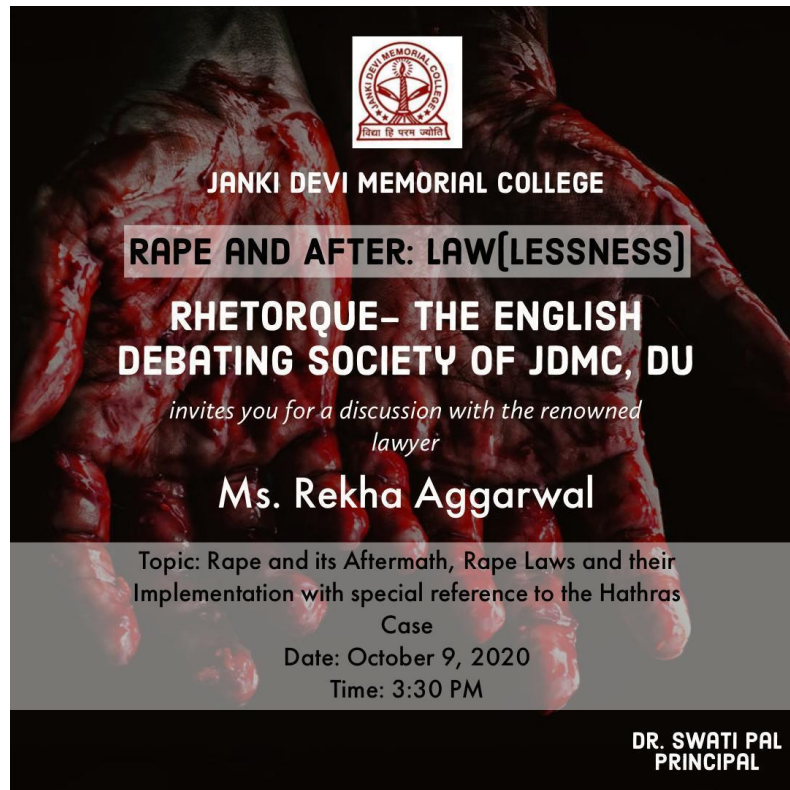
Discussion on Rape and After: Law(lessness)

On 9 October 2020, Rhetorque, the English Debating Society of Janki Devi Memorial College, conducted a discussion with the renowned lawyer, Ms. Rekha Aggarwal on Rape and After: Law(lessness). This session was the first of a planned series of discussions on various significant topics of contemporary times which will be held throughout the year. This discussion focused on the topic of rape and its aftermath and rape laws and their implementation with a special reference to the Hathras case. The Hathras case once again brought to the fore a discussion of the rape culture prevalent in India and the complicated web of legality surrounding rape.

Ms. Aggarwal enrolled as an advocate in 1987 in Delhi and has been appearing before the District Court, High Court, Supreme Court of India and various Consumer Courts, particularly National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC). She has dealt with all sorts of Civil and Criminal litigation and has a keen interest in issues related to the welfare of Children, Women and Specially Abled persons. She has appeared on various TV channels and has also contributed articles in various magazines. She is also a member of various ICCs (Internal Complaint Committees) formed under the Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment Act. She is a trained Mediator of the Delhi High Court Mediation and Conciliation Centre. She also has a special interest in consumer affairs, and is one of the Founder Members of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) Bar Association, New Delhi. Currently, she is the President of the NCDRC Bar Association.

The Principal began the discussion by sharing her opinion and welcoming the speaker and was followed by Ms. Aggarwal who defined rape in legal terms and how the definition was modified after the infamous Nirbhaya case. She also provided information about various rape prevention laws and provisions like POSCO Act and Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code. Ms. Aggarwal also discussed how the punishment of the perpetrator depends on the age of the victim.

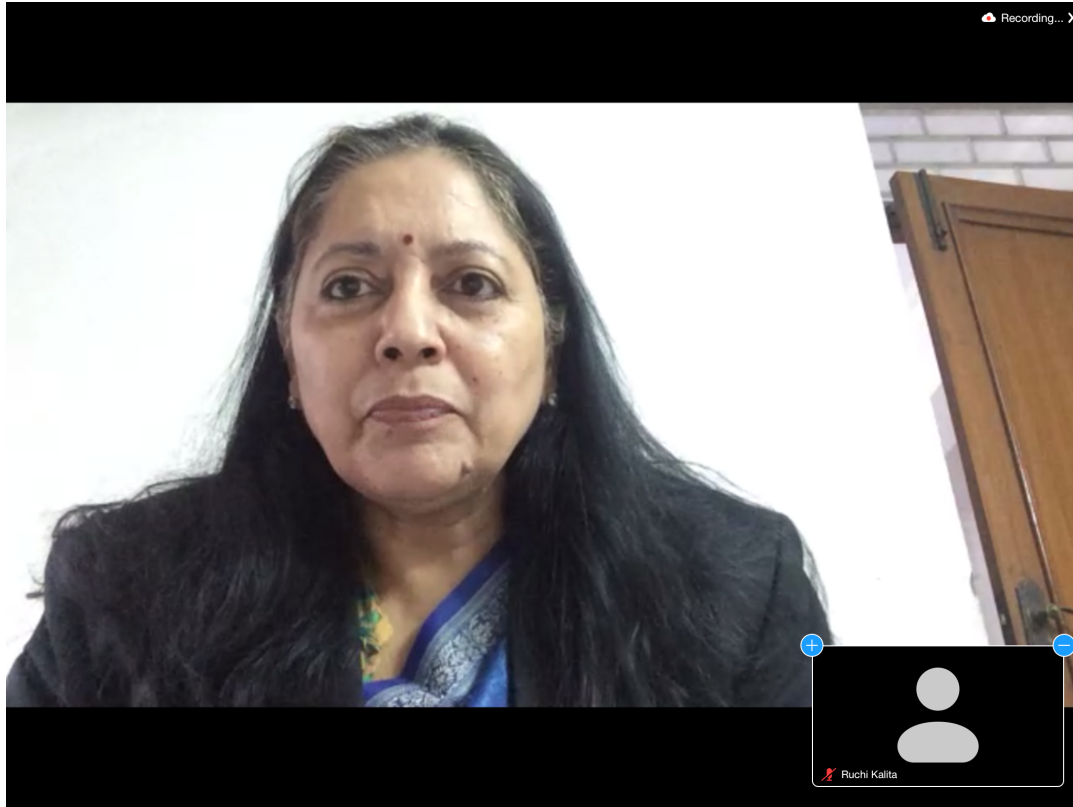
The session was quite informative and was further enriched by the presence of participants from across DU and included both faculty and students. There were 80 participants who asked various important and thought-provoking questions related to marital rape, protection of rights of the LGBTQIA+ community and cyber bullying.



Poster of the Discussion on Rape and After: Law(lessnes) conducted by Ms. Rekha Aggarwal on
9 October 2020

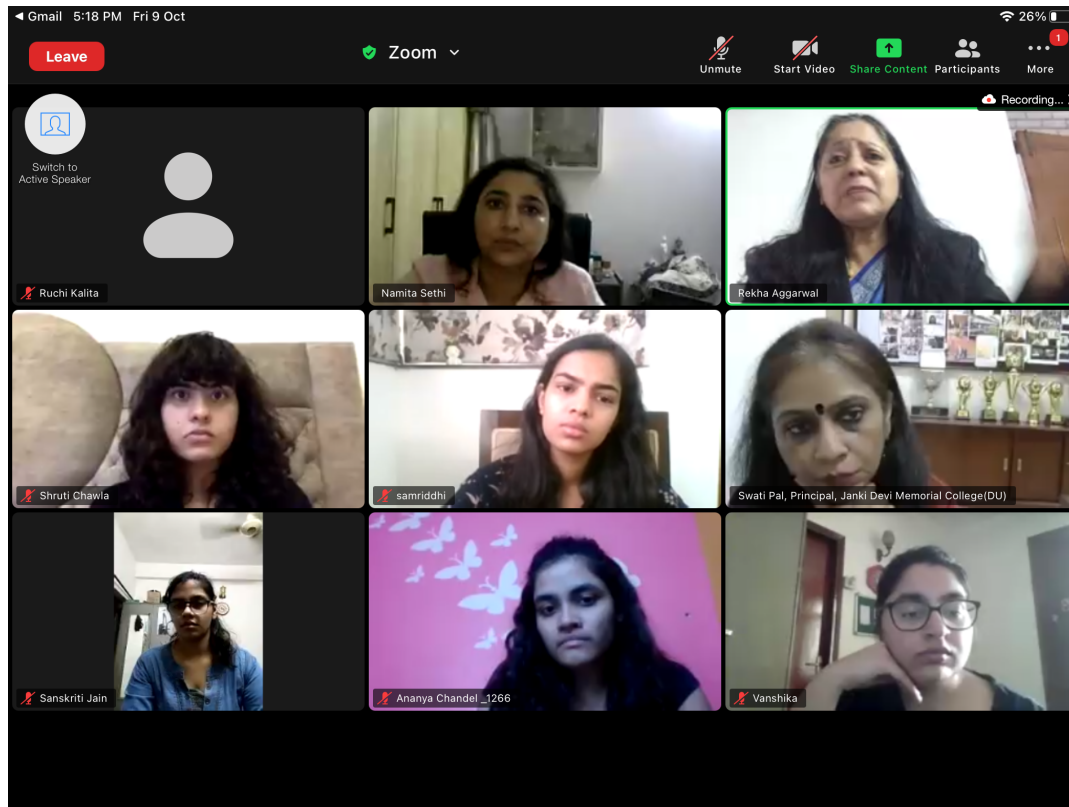


Dr. Swati Pal addressing the Audience during the Discussion on Rape and After: Law(lessness)
conducted by Ms. Rekha Aggarwal on 9 October 2020



Ms. Rekha Aggarwal addressing the Audience during the Discussion on Rape and After:

Law(lessness) conducted by Ms. Rekha Aggarwal on 9 October 2020



Glimpses of the Discussion on Rape and After: Law(lessness) conducted by Ms. Rekha Aggarwal on 9 October 2020

JDMC Fundraiser Conventional Debate Competition

Covid-19 has been the biggest crisis our generation has ever faced. Rhetorque, the English Debating Society of the college, felt that it was necessary to contribute our share in this time of need. Keeping this in mind, Rhetorque, decided to host a Fundraising Conventional Debate Competition, in an effort to connect the ones who can help to the ones who need it.

While searching for the an NGO or Non-Profit Organisation to collaborate with, we came across The Robinhood Army, which is a Zero-Funds Organisation. The Robinhood Army has come up with an initiative to feed 30 million people across the world who are dying of starvation. They

call it “The Mission30M”. All the proceeds collected in the Competition would therefore be used to buy dry ration, which would be finally dispatched by the Robinhood Army to the needy.

On 5 August 2020, we got ready to conduct our first virtual event on Google Meet. With a massive response of over 150 interested candidates, 30 participants were shortlisted. The theme of the debate was Mental Health, and the motion was “This house supports the narrative of continued self-improvement.”

The competition started at 11 AM. The speeches commenced immediately after the introduction. Both sides of the motion were eloquently defended. The event witnessed participation, not only from the students of Delhi University, but from across India. This is where the virtual medium shined in its uniqueness, with participants coming from as far as Kerala and the North East. The diversity of participants as well as the vast spectrum of the content they delivered made the event very special for everyone. Following the last speech, the competition was concluded by a speech from the representative of Robinhood Army, who was invited to attend the competition. She explained how they conduct the drives, how the ration is distributed and what is the criteria for distribution. She cleared all the doubts of the participants and requested people to donate in their own capacity.

Rhetorque alumni; Surbhi Arora and Pallavi Bais, who have many debating laurels to their name, were invited as the judges for the event. Ishita Singh from Deshbandhu College, DU, secured the position of Best Speaker for the Motion and Mridula Dua from Amar Jyoti Institute of Physiotherapy, DU, bagged the position of Best Speaker Against the Motion. Nandini Pillai from Hindu College, DU, was the Best Interjector.

With the participants eager to get personal feedback from judges and promising to donate, the event ended on a very positive note. Rhetorque raised enough funds to buy 50kg of rice to donate to Robinhood. Robinhood Army has been transparent throughout the process, and we received photos of happy children from them when they donated the rice to their families.



Rhetorque presents

**JANKI DEVI MEMORIAL FUNDRAISER
DEBATE**

Distribution Partner

Robin Hood Army
(A Zero Fund Organisation)

Details for donation:
Paytm account:
9818458940
Name: Sanjay Malik
Google Pay account:
9560145245
Name: Samriddhi

Poster of Fundraiser Debate held on 5 August 2021



Rice bought by the donations from the Fundraising Competition



Rhetorque team member with the donations of dry ration



Rhetorque team member with the members of the Robin Hood Army



Photo supplied by the Robin Hood Army of families receiving the donations