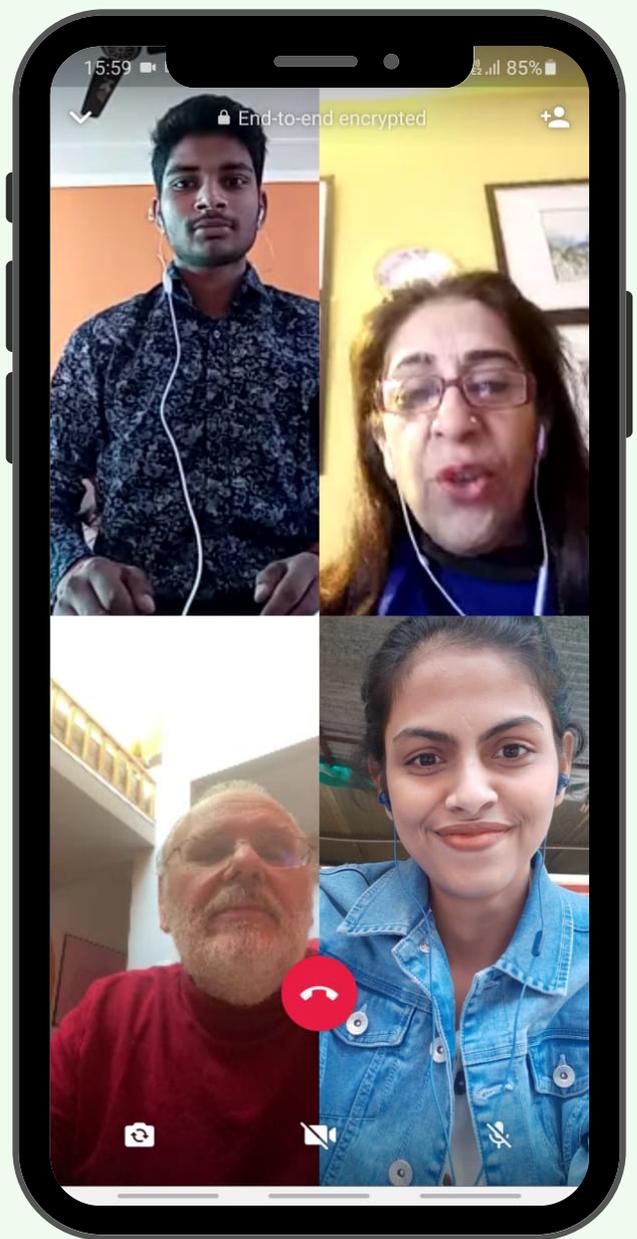




## Outreach & The New Batch

The year 2020 has been a difficult year for all of us. In spite of the challenges, Vahani was able to open its applications on time in September 2020. The uncertainty and delay with 11th standard exams had made it difficult for many students to apply and school closures made it impossible to reach out to principals in the usual manner. With this in mind, we worked out a different strategy for outreach and, as a result, our registrations increased by 100%, with more than **2000** applications received for the 2021 cohort as compared to 980 from the previous year. There was a noticeable increase in the number of states we received applications from too. 14 new states and Union Territories were covered: *Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Daman and Diu, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya,*

[Read More](#)



To do justice to the huge number of applications received, the short-listing stages were further refined. After screening all the applications on the basis of merit and family income, each application was carefully vetted. The selected applications were shortlisted for an initial personal interview that was carried out by the Vahani Team. The further shortlisted applicants faced a final round of interviews in January with the Board Members. Vahani Alumni willingly stepped in to facilitate the process. Since everyone was connecting remotely from all across the world, the team had organised video calls with each applicant.

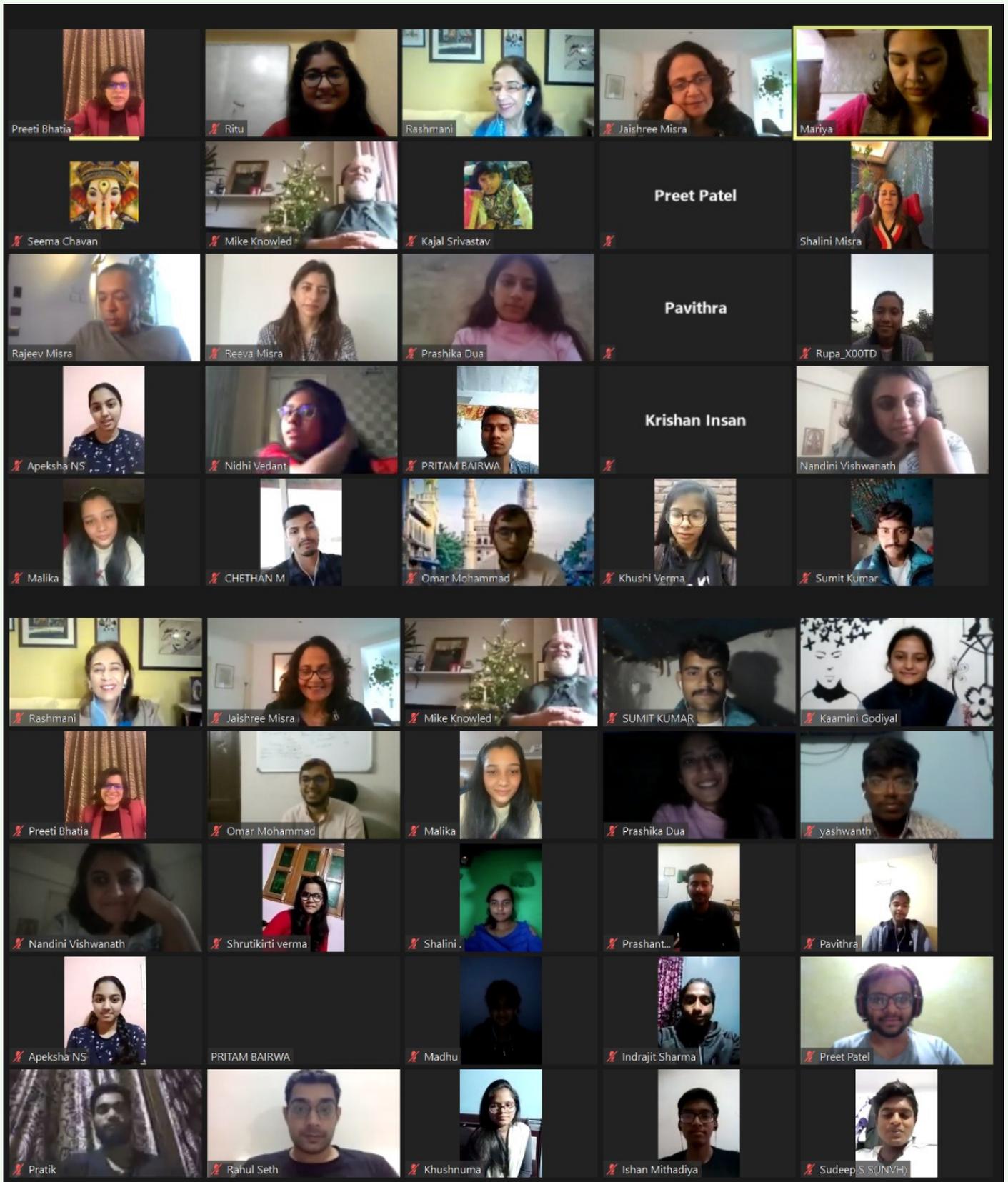
After two weeks of interview sessions, we finally came up with a list of the final 41 applicants. These students have received conditional scholarship offers and will come on board as the 2021 Batch of Vahani Scholars, our seventh intake.

# Welcome Kit for 2020 Batch



Our 2020 Scholars have been something of a guinea-pig batch that has tried and tested the “New Normal”. Not only have they missed out so far on normal college life, they have also had to deal with online classes. At Vahani, we truly enjoy welcoming the new batch every year at the annual Vahani summer workshop, but unfortunately that too did not take place. Instead, once the admissions were completed in December, the Vahani Team organised a Virtual Induction Program with all the Scholars, Mentors and Board Members attending virtually. It always gives us immense pleasure to see the Vahani family grow each year, with new amazing smart and visionary Scholars joining us. 2020 has no doubt been different but that did not quell the celebrations. It was heart-warming to see the Scholars confidently introducing themselves and declaring their pride and excitement at joining our family. Another important ritual missed and delayed for this batch was gifting the Vahani Kit. However, our Managing Director, Rashmani Singh took responsibility for parceling these kits out to each and every 2020 Scholar. This comprised a Vahani bag and shirt, a diary by Neev, a toilet kit, a sleeping suit, two books and lots of love in the form of a message from our founder Reeva Misra. We were touched to see the sheer joy and happiness expressed by the Scholars and our Social Media lit up for a while with all their messages and pictures.

# A glimpse of the Induction Program

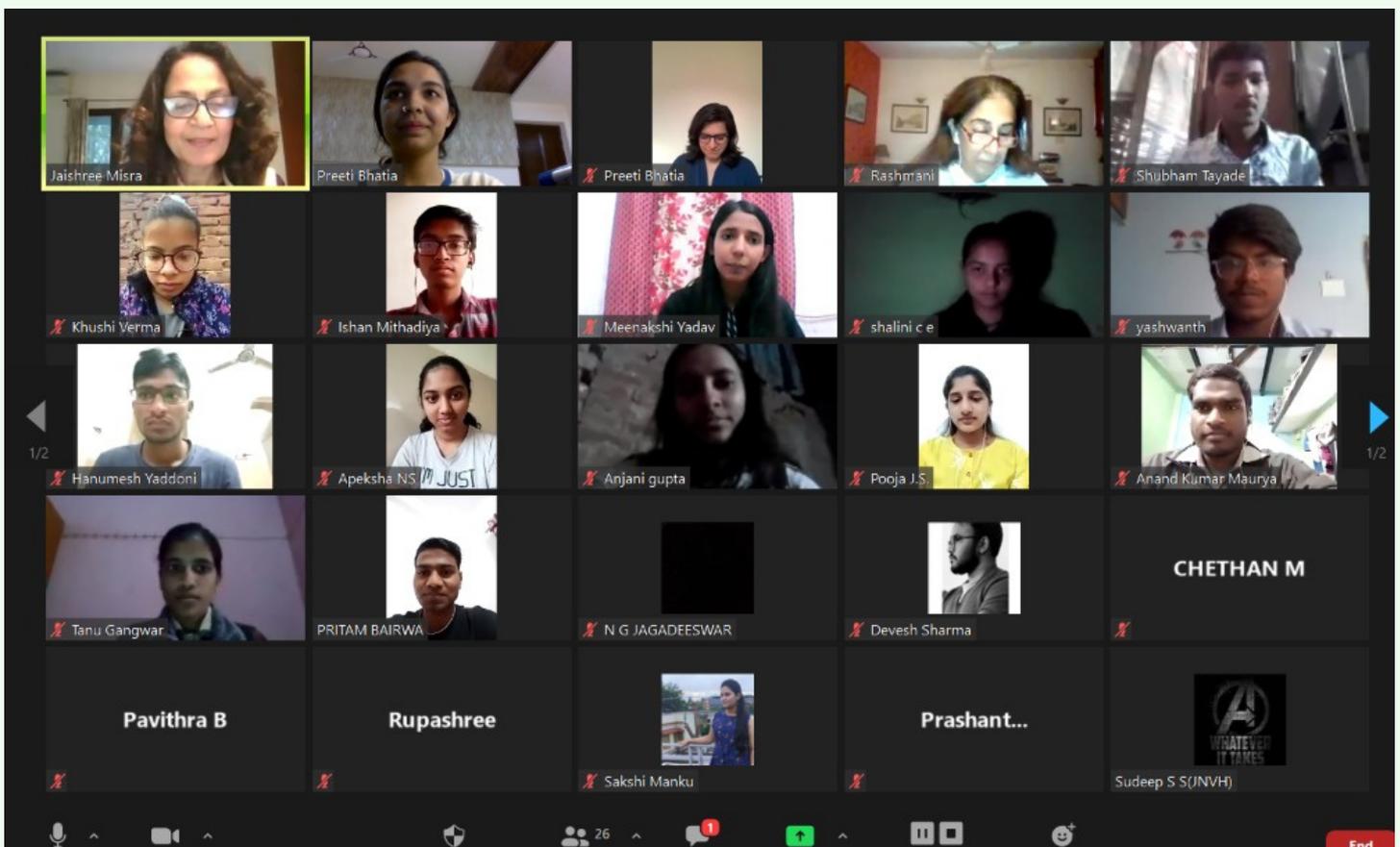


Watch the full session [HERE](#)

# Our Own Experiment with Online Teaching

In keeping with the rest of the world, we decided to not step back but to step up (virtually and online), offering every possible opportunity to keep the scholars engaged. In order to ensure that no one got left out, each and every Vahani Scholar was offered a laptop stipend and guided to select the best model suited to their individual needs. They have also been provided with data/internet stipends so that they do not miss any of our own sessions as well as their online university classes/exams. We have held sessions ranging from career development to professional etiquette, mental wellbeing, leadership skills and many more. We are extremely grateful to our Mentors who have selflessly volunteered and initiated several of these sessions and have also taken on the responsibility to personally help our graduating batches.

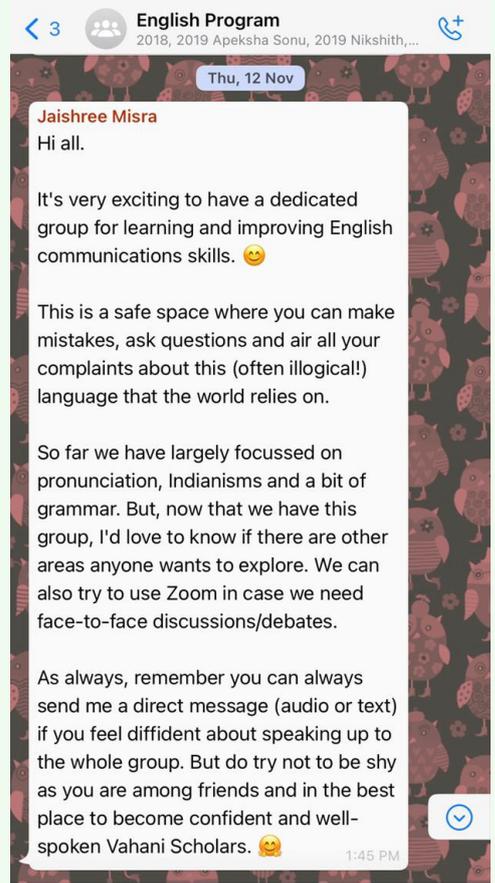
## • English Communications Programme



Vahani caters to the holistic development of the Scholars and a large part of this lies in the English Language Programme. This year we have

added another dimension to the English-Vinglish package that was led by Prof. Veena Sethi. This written language course offered to Scholars in their second year has been collaborative, informative and enjoyable. After receiving useful feedback from the first batches of Scholars, the programme was developed to include reading and listening skills with the use of You-Tube videos and newspaper articles. We are lucky to have a group of amazing Tutors located all over the world who work closely with their assigned Scholars, providing personalized feedback and corrections on

the essays they send. The course has helped improve proficiency in the English language, advancing grammar, vocabulary and written skills. However, we felt there was a further need to brush up basics of grammar and spoken language skills before Scholars went on to the written program. Therefore, in collaboration with Vahani Board member and Mentor Jaishree Misra, we designed an English Communications Programme which the Scholars fondly refer to as their 'English Club'.



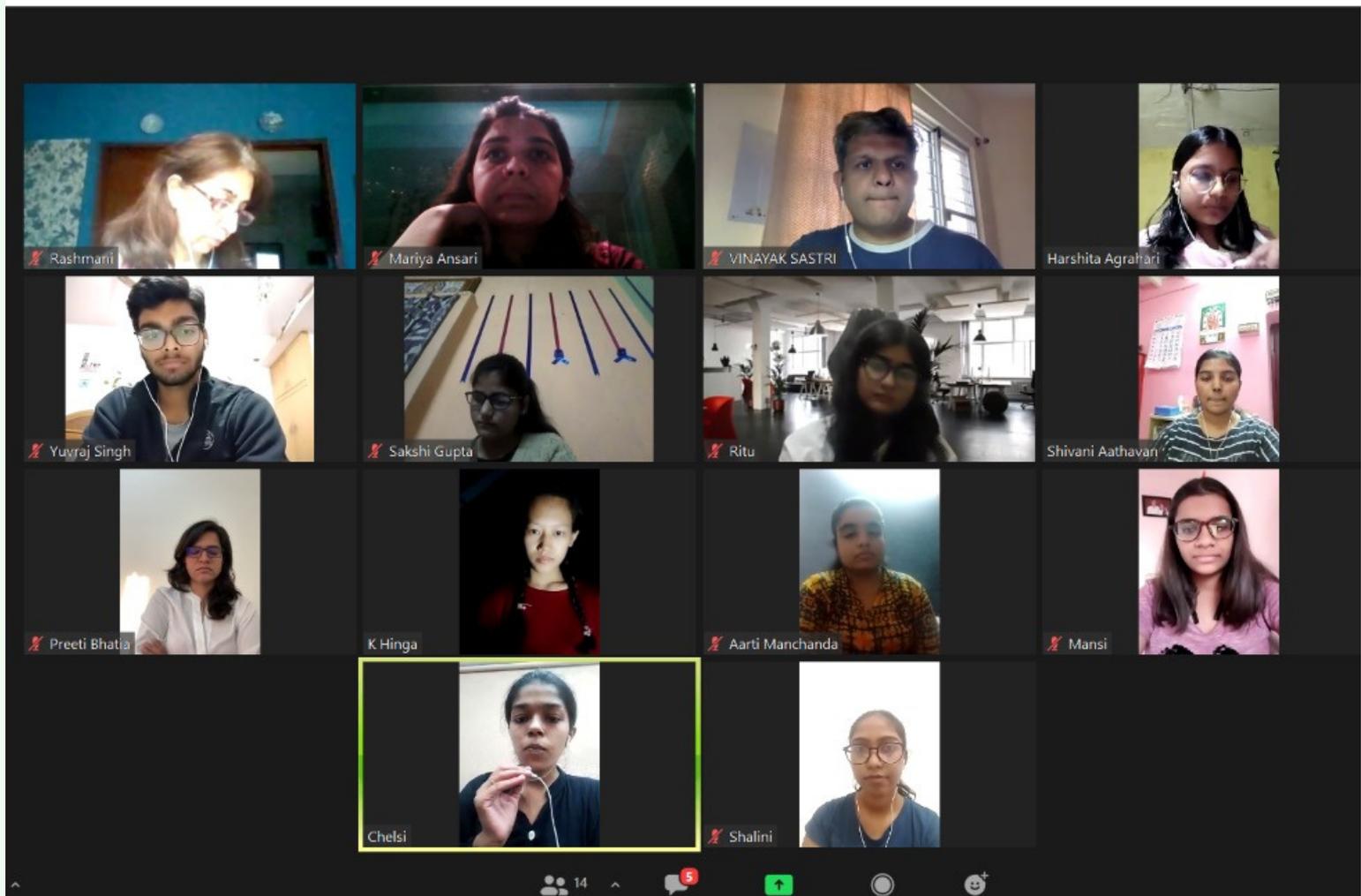
## • 1:1 CV Reviews

[Read More](#)

Our Scholars soon become aware of the importance of developing good resumes and CVs as this is their first chance to create a favourable impression when they go for job/internship interviews. After holding a group session with the Scholars on "How to Build an Effective CV", Vahani Mentor Apar Rathi was eager to work 1:1 with the graduating Scholars to help review their CVs. We have put together a basic CV Building Kit along with a Template that every scholar can use to develop their own resumes. Such careful 1:1 mentoring is what makes Vahani different from any other scholarship and we cannot stop expressing our gratitude to our wonderful band of 67 Mentors who selflessly give their time and energy to help shape the futures of our scholars.

## • Mock GDs & PIs

Each of us must surely remember how awkward and conscious we were at our first job interview ! And so, to make things easier for our Scholars, the Vahani Team organised personal interviews and group discussions with all the 2020 graduating Scholars. To make the experience more realistic and impactful, the interviews were carried out by Vahani Mentors chosen from the same field of study as the Scholar. These interviews were conducted by using video calls between the Mentor and the Scholar, with a team member always present. Not only did the Scholars learn how to present themselves , they also became familiar with the kinds of questions to expect at an interview. These Mock PIs were followed by two GDs, which was again reviewed by Vahani Mentors who shared their thoughts on how the Scholars could improve their participation and get noticed. The Vahani Team plans to continue these sessions for each graduating batch and will be assessing their individual progress along the way.



**Watch Here**

# • Mentor-Mentee Catch Up Session

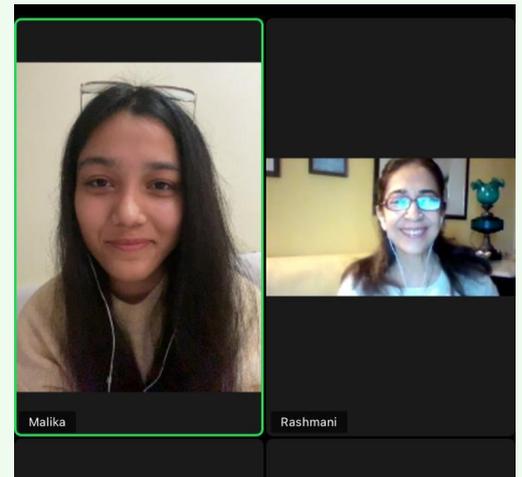
At the start of the lockdown, the Vahani Family frequently met online and stayed connected to support each other. In a series of weekly activities, the Mentors and Mentees also connected every Friday on Zoom meets. It not only gave everyone a sense of support but also brought Mentors and Mentees together to enjoy some very interesting quizzes and discussions. Once everything began to open up and people started returning to their busy routines, the Vahani Team came up with the idea of organising a catch-up session for individual Mentors with their Mentees. We began the process in January 2021 and it has been useful and insightful to catch up with everyone. These calls have helped bridge gaps where required as well as helping us learn more about the dynamics between Mentors and their Mentees. Receiving candid suggestions and feedback also helps us improve the outcome of the whole program.



Scholar Fouzia , with Mentor Shilpa Raj and Team Member Mariya Ansari



Scholar Sumit & Indrajit , with Mentor Maj, Vijay Maradani and Team Member Mariya Ansari



Scholar Malika , with Mentor Karishma Kewalramani and Team Member Preeti Bhatia

# Scholars' Blog

## The Vahani Blog

All Posts



K Hinga - 2018 Scholar  
4 days ago · 2 min

**Be wise about what makes a man, A man**



Shalini Dubey - 2018 Scholar  
4 days ago · 1 min

**Think - Positively, Live- Fullest, Eat-**



Meenakshi Yadav - 2020 Scholar  
4 days ago · 1 min

**On my way!**

"The purpose of our lives is to be

[Visit Blog](#)

**Be wise about what makes a man, A man healthy, wealthy and wiser.**

**- K Hinga - 2018 Scholar [Read More](#)**

Doing 50 push-ups in single sitting, reading Mr. Popular's blog every day or downloading mind matters apps DOES NOT guarantee a holistic life. Here is why. Intensive workout may drain so much of your energy that you would be unable to do any physical activity for the next few days. Mr. Popular is telling you only the popular speculation, and not the expert opinion. QAnon's conspiracy theory being the most recent example. And getting distracted by what your friend has texted you while using Mind matters app is not the best way to enable self-growth.

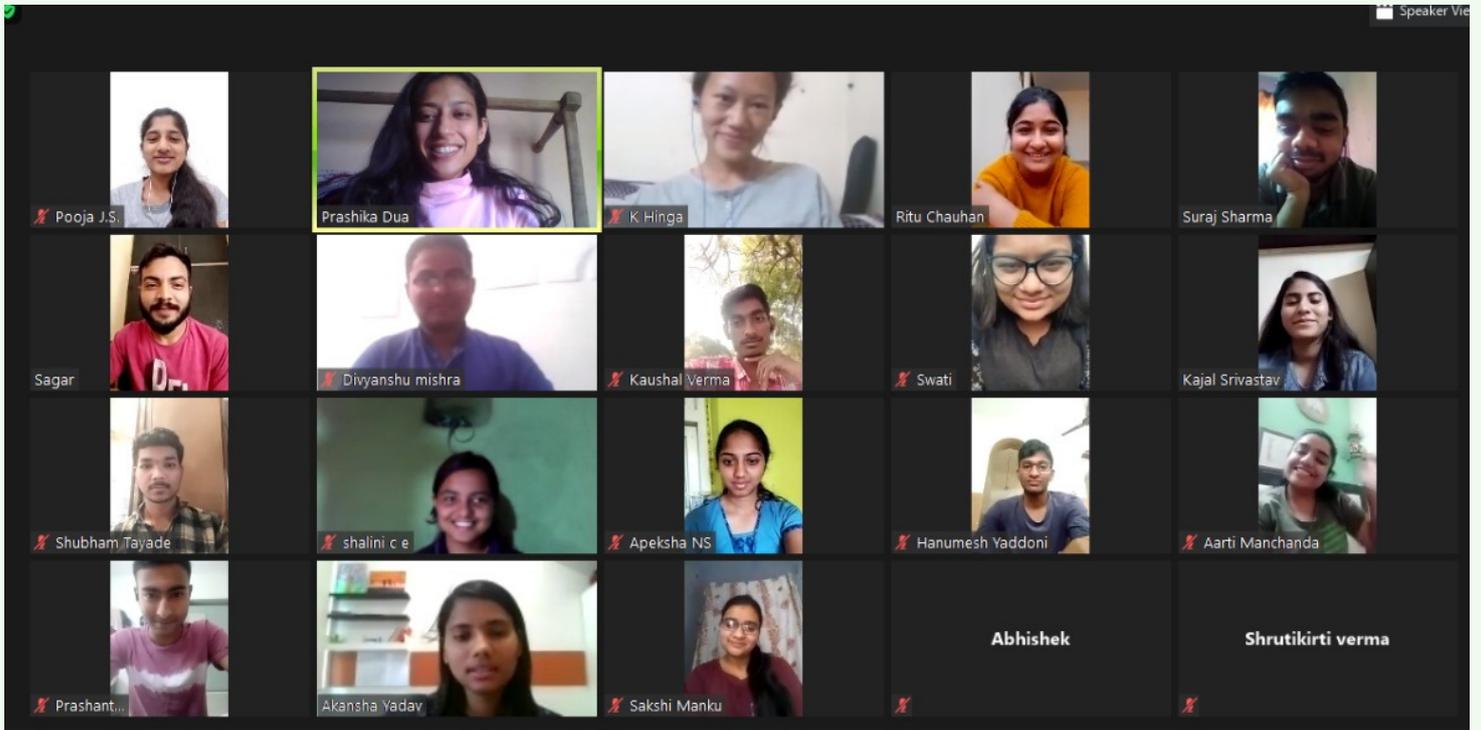
**The Book That Changed My Life- "THE SECRET" - Malika Goyal - 2017 Scholar [Read More](#)**

We all work with one infinite power. We are all guided by exactly the same laws. Wherever we are in India, Australia, New Zealand, Venice or New York- we're all working with one power; one law. It's attraction!

**2020 were you a New Year or a "News year"?- Shivani Aathvan - 2017 Scholar [Read More](#)**

Here I stand at the end of the 2020 road. When I look back... I still remember stepping onto the first day of this year which has turned out to be the most peculiar one I've ever been. Each passing day has occupied a unique place in my book of memoirs.

# Alumni Meets



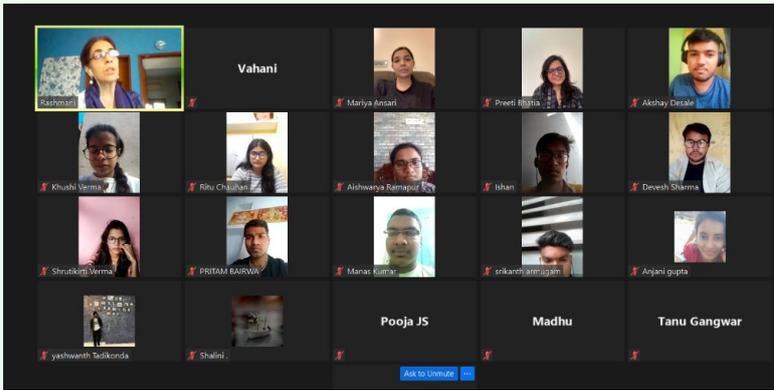
The Vahani Alumni Association got off on a good start and has been extremely proactive with the current Scholars. Apart from holding several catch up meets, very useful sessions on Insurance Policies, Financial Literacy and 2021 Budget highlights were initiated. The Alumni Association current Team has laid a strong Foundation, which should set the tone for future office bearers to carry the torch forward. This branch of Vahani is extremely important as they act as Ambassadors and help build the Brand in the corporate world and at the Universities where some of them they are currently enrolled.

## Secret Santa

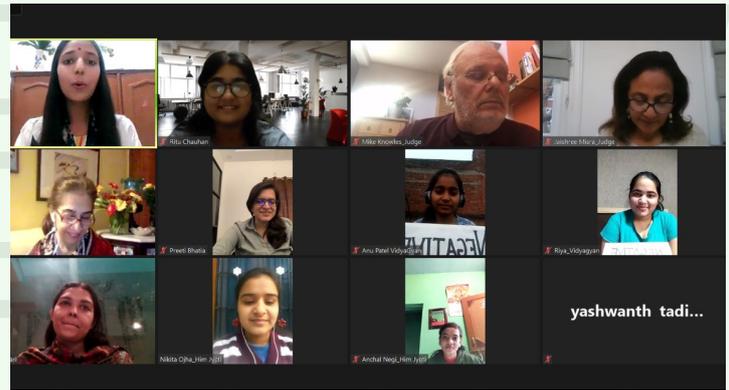


The Vahani Team Members had organised a fun Secret Santa activity amongst the team for Christmas.

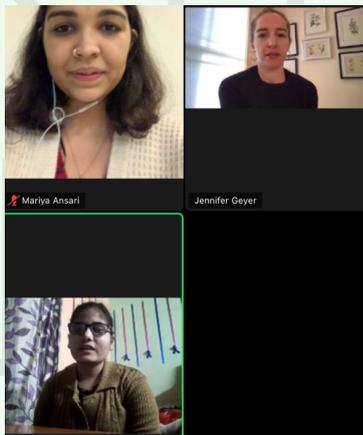
# What's New ?



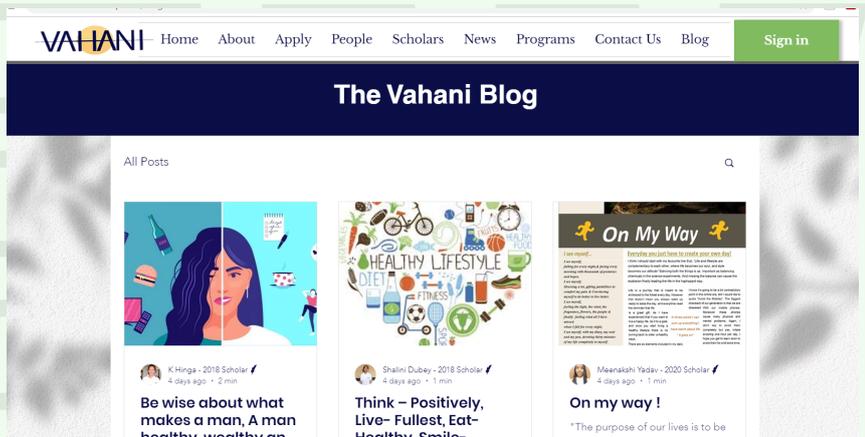
## Batch Meets



## Quiz Competition



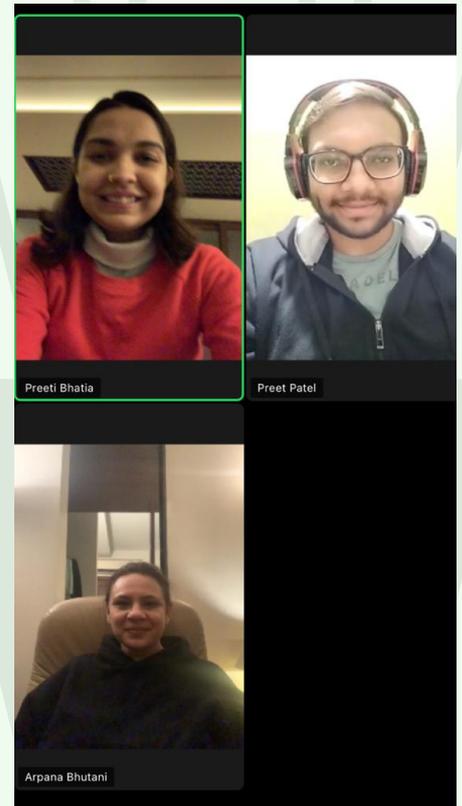
## Workability Session



## Vahani Blog



## English Communications Programme



## Mentor - Mentee Calls

Watch All Our Online Sessions [HERE](#)

# *How can you contribute?*

**1**

***Become a Vahani Mentor or English Tutor***

**2**

***Help us connect with new companies for internships***

**3**

***Help organise a workshop***

**4**

***Spread awareness about the scholarship & connect us with deserving applicants***

**5**

***Follow and share our social media handles***



**YouTube**

