



The official newsletter of Hopetown Girls' School

# BENEATH THE PURPLE ROOF

The first 'Post-Covid' revival issue!

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# FOREWORD

*From the editors desk*

Dear gentle readers,

I am writing to you all for the very first time. Creating this edition of the school's official newsletter for all has been nothing short of a rollercoaster ride. I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I did while editing it.

Dear writers, I do not edit your essence, I have always and will always, only and only edit your words. I hope to have done justice to it.

Happy reading!!

Mariyah Dedat

Editor-in-Chief

*From teacher-in-charge*

Dear Readers,

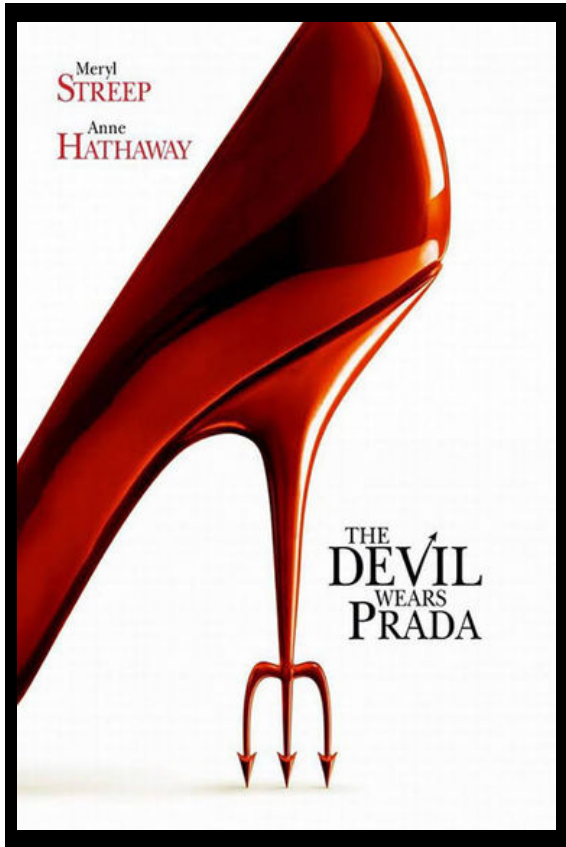
With immense pleasure, we present to you the first post-Covid revival issue of Beneath the Purple Roof - which is our school's official publication, that was substituted by 'Happy Circle' - the e-publication during Covid times. One thing we have learnt from the two years that Covid played havoc is, that, we cannot take anything for granted and that nothing lasts forever.

I must appreciate Mariyah for her tireless efforts at meeting the deadlines for bringing out the publications and doing a good job! I congratulate her and her team.

We hope that the publication of BTPR is going to run smooth and we will be able to keep you all updated about the events at school.

Best Wishes Always,  
Sonia Singh.

# THE EDITOR'S PICKS!



## *The Devil Wears Prada*

Ratings: 4.6 out of 5.

Director: David Frankel

Cast: Anne Hathaway, Meryl Streep and Stanley Tucci.

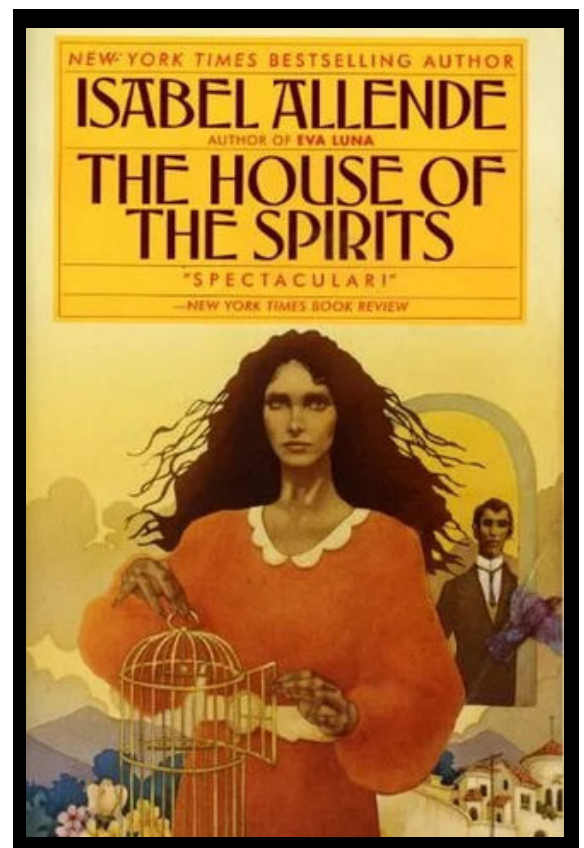
Synopsis: Based on a true story, *The Devil Wears Prada* is about Andy, a recent college graduate with big dreams. Upon landing a job at prestigious *Runway* magazine, she finds herself the assistant to diabolical editor Miranda Priestly. Andy questions her ability to survive her grim tour as Miranda's whipping girl without getting scorched!

## *The House Of The Spirits*

Ratings: 4.3 out of 5.

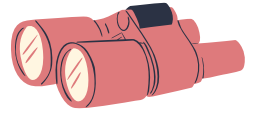
Writer: Isabel Allende

Synopsis : 'The House of the Spirits' brings to life the triumphs and tragedies of three generations of the Trueba family. The patriarch Esteban is a volatile, proud man whose voracious pursuit of political power is tempered only by his love for his delicate wife Clara, a woman with a mystical connection to the spirit world. When their daughter Blanca embarks on a forbidden love affair in defiance of her implacable father, the result is an unexpected gift for Esteban: his adored granddaughter Alba, a beautiful and strong-willed child who will lead her family and her country into a revolutionary future.





# HOCUS FOCUS



## What's been happening at HT?



### Inter-House MUN

This term, the Global Affairs community at Hopetown revived the Inter-House MUN Competition. There were in all four committees - UNGA, Crisis Committee, UNHCR and AIPPM, All participants indulged in healthy and informative discussions. They learnt a lot about diplomacy and international relations.

### Independence Day

Hopetown celebrated India's 75th Independence Day ardently, starting with the flag hoisting followed by a fantastic show put up by middle school Council-'Rewinding History'.



### The State Athletics Meet

Hopetown encourages all students to participate in sports, inculcating in them the important life lesson of being well balanced and strong individuals.

Congratulations to all our athletes who participated in the 18th Uttarakhand Junior Athletics meet held at Maharana Pratap Sports College, Raipur on the 26th and 27th of August 2022.



## Inter-School Hindi Elocution

The Annual Inter-School Hindi Elocution competition for middle school students was organized. Overall six schools participated in the competition. The trophy was bagged by Welham's Girls' School.

## Spic Macay

We were privileged to witness a spectacular performance by the renowned Sitar player Shri Purbayan Chatterjee, who was accompanied by Shri Shubh Maharaj, a renowned Tabla player and disciple of Pt. Kishan Maharaj. The audience at Hopetown was captivated by the performance.



## Educational Trips





# ANNUAL ATHLETICS MEET



The Annual Athletics Meet 2022- the revival of the Sports Meet held at Hopetown after the pandemic, was held on 21st September. The day held the same exuberance, vitality and spirit it used to have prior Covid. The event started on a well coordinated note with the House March Past. The girls demonstrated their skills through a lively aerobics performance, karate display, tug of war, and the athletic races. The talent that each and every girl displayed was indeed awe-inspiring!





# FOUNDERS' DAY



## ADVAIT- ONENESS:

This year's Founder's theme was 'climate change'. The performing arts department exhibited the interpretation of the theme through their production 'Advait'. Their performance represented the birth of man, his greed, annihilation and finally the enlightenment. The performance was enriching and riveting.

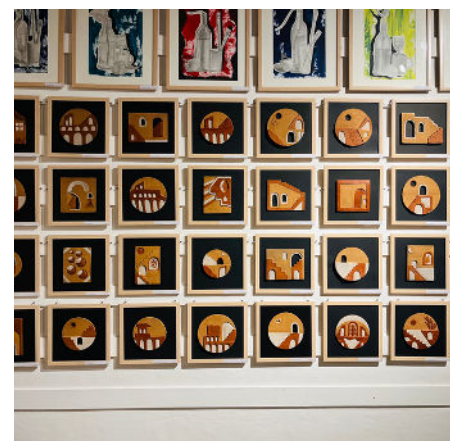


## PHOTOGRAPHY-MÉLANGE:

This year's theme for the photography exhibition was *Mélange*-a varied mixture. The students explored a variety of areas such as bird photography, abstract photography, playing with light and shadow etc. They also actively involved themselves in clicking pictures for the numerous events at Hopetown. They submitted interesting and unique pictures from their collection during the summer breaks. Through the year, the photography club girls got to learn several aspects of photography, such as, Direction, Intensity Contrast, Hardness.

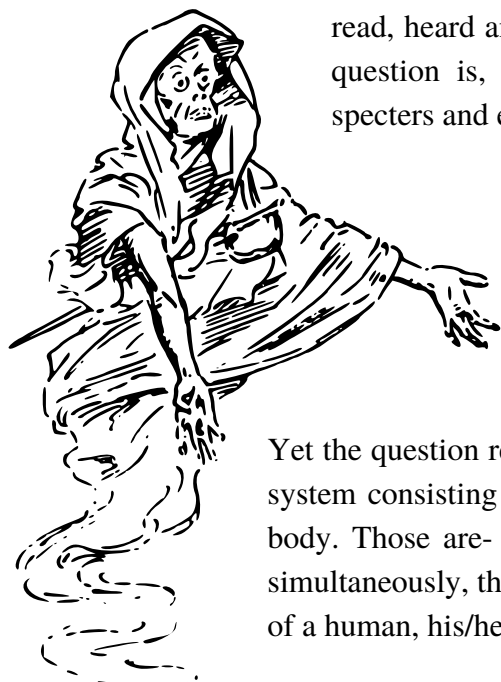
## ART- HUNAR:

Hunar depicts talent. Each piece represents a student's talent and critical thinking. The girls worked on a variety of art styles such as cubism, realism, surrealism, Lippan art and more. This year's installation was a white on white textile made with handloom and yarn. Each yarn represented a student of Hopetown.





# THE WORLD OF THE SUPERNATURAL



We are all intrigued by ghosts, spirits and the supernatural in general. We have read, heard and watched innumerable stories and movies. However, the actual question is, 'Are they real?' What is this 'thing' people call apparitions, specters and entities.

People have constantly been researching and looking for evidences of the paranormal. Shows such as 'Buzzfeed Unsolved Supernatural' and several other documentaries and series have been seriously trying to portray the reality of the paranormal world.

Yet the question remains "What is the paranormal?" The human body is a complex system consisting of three important aspects or parts that control all things in our body. Those are- the mind, body and soul. Even though the three of them work simultaneously, the soul is said to work differently. It is believed that after the death of a human, his/her soul leaves the body and travels to afterlife.

The Mesopotamian civilization feared their dead greatly. It was thought that distressed, murdered and evil spirits could escape the land of the dead to cause havoc among the living by entering the bodies of the living through their ears. Several other civilizations had their own interesting methods. However, what a lot of them have in common is the belief that the dead continue living, even though in a different world.

When we come across the belief that the souls travel to a different world, we choose to believe either heaven or hell because then the greater question arises, "Is God real?" Well, the question is quite controversial but I personally believe in Him, as humans and as individuals, merely out of habit or need 'have to believe' in something. This belief is for our own relief in life in times of sorrow and suffering. It's all a concept of belief, we get over problems and troubles in life because we believe that a greater power protects us.

However, we have had quite close encounters with the paranormal realm in certain cases such as that of the exorcism of Annelise Michel which was taken as the script to make the famous film 'Emily Rose.' However, just like in the film and several other cases, these encounters clash with mental illnesses, thus blurring the concept and the existence of the paranormal. But I still believe that the feeling you get in your room when you are all alone is not simply your subconscious but rather something more complex. Thus the quest continues. I would like to end with a quote "The Devil is real; And he is not a little red man with horns and a tail. He can be beautiful. Because he is a fallen angel and he used to be God's favorite."

—Aneesha de

# SHOULD THE RICH PAY MORE TAXES?

## An Argument:

### FOR

The wealthy can undoubtedly pay more taxes and contribute to the nation's improvement. Taxes are not intended to take advantage of people's hard-earned money. Rather, they benefit and strengthen economic growth. People in the middle and lower-income brackets must spend a bigger proportion of their income on necessities than the 'richer class'. As a result, the latter save far more and may invest in other areas, such as leisure. Imposing increased taxes on utilities that only the wealthy can pay for, will assist the economy by bringing in more cash and increasing taxes on the rich makes it reasonable because they are the ones who can afford them the most. People benefitting the most from the economy should contribute to initiatives that assist the poorest. A proportional tax structure can help to keep wealth disparities from becoming too great.

-VIJETA SINGH

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### AGAINST

Rich individuals are already paying greater taxes under the present progressive taxation structure. More impoverishing individuals will stymie investments in the country, reducing job development and making conducting business more difficult. Instead of raising tax rates, we should focus on broadening tax bases, simplifying indirect taxes, and making tax filing easier. Regulatory changes are the solution, and rules should be the same for everyone, rich or poor. Many creatures suffer throughout the winter, yet Nature's rules do not change. Similarly, the wealthy must not be forced to pay additional taxes for what they have achieved via hard labour. Rising taxation on the richest sector of the society is socially destructive and creates a civil war situation, in which the poor and middle class learn to hate the affluent, and the rich, who are contributing an increasing share of the tax bill and likewise, resent the poor and middle class in response.

# CRITICAL ANALYSIS: 'THE SPIDER'S THREAD'

## BY RYUNOSUKE AKUTAGAWA

This Japanese fiction is a rudimentary juxtaposition of the good and bad presented before us by the famous author Rashomon. The story is based on a robber who has done atrocious deeds and has now been sent to hell to compensate for his sins. He is given a chance to save himself and climb to heaven by using a spider's thread. This opportunity presents to him as a ray of hope, quite literally, to save himself from the deep depths of hell and its never-ending torture. But halfway up, he notices other sinners trying to procure the same salvation by climbing after him. He orders them to get off in fear of the thread snapping but this very unworthy act causes the thread to snap and sends him plummeting back. The primary conflict of this story, as I like to believe, is not about the robber's choices or the spider's thread or even the ruler of heaven who saw the robber writhing in pain in the depths of hell and decided to give him a chance by sending that singular frail thread. Its more substantial than that. It is about us and the world we live in.

In this world, most people come to such means of livelihood when they have nothing for their sustenance. What's ironical about this is, that the society that they live in is designed in a way to sustain that very life and its means to live. Yet, in that very system, supposedly designed for them to thrive in, is the very place they find themselves trapped in. Then comes that ray of hope. A way out from this never-ending economic hardship. Of course, they would jump at the opportunity. But so would everyone else who is on the same boat as him. But is it fair to only help one man or a group of unfortunate individuals? How can one come to such a subjective and impossible estimation? All in the very society designed for them to thrive in! This story, in my perspective is much more than just about heaven and hell or good and bad. It's a satire on our society and our life, the ruler of heaven, being the framers of this society, the ray of hope being the chance to survive and sustain, like robbing a house. A difficult hard chance filled with prolonged suffering such as climbing the long never-ending rope to heaven. It's almost futile and all it does is, prove the ruler as a sadist. It is not fair to categorize people as good and bad, based purely on outward stimuluses that are out of their control and then decide who would get a garden and who gets eternal pain.

-Vanessa Alam.

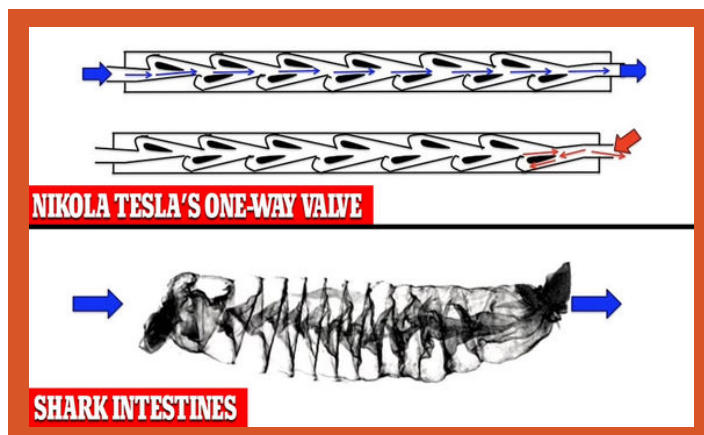
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# Discoveries!

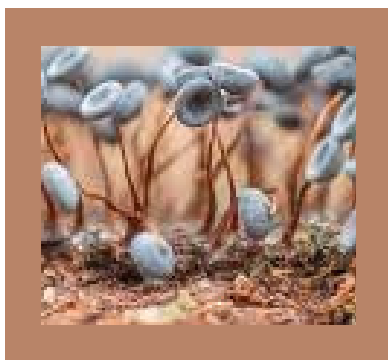
## SHARK INTESTINES FUNCTION LIKE TESLA VALVES!

The Tesla Valve, invented by Nikola Tesla, almost a century ago, is a series of interconnected teardrop shaped loops designed to pass flows of fluids in only one direction with no moving parts. Or to put it simply, in a tesla straw, you would only be able to drink water from one direction and not the other.



This interesting feature can also be found in the physiology of a shark, an astounding example of biomimicry on Tesla's part. The intestines of a shark are designed in a way that allows fluid to flow only in one direction without any backflow. From their scans, the researchers discovered several new aspects about how shark intestines function. It appears that these spiral-shaped organs slow the movement of food and direct it downward through the gut, relying on gravity in addition to peristalsis, the rhythmic contraction of the gut's smooth muscle. This has shed light on how the food eaten by Bruce from 'Finding Nemo' digests. Most sharks usually spend days or even weeks between eating large meals, so they rely on being able to hold food in their system and absorb as many nutrients as possible. The slowed movement of food through their gut caused by the spiral intestine probably allows sharks to retain their food longer, and they also use less energy, processing that food.

Researched by- Aneesha De



## SLIME MOLD STORES MEMORIES WITHOUT EVEN HAVING A BRAIN!

Slime Mold, are not actually fungi but cousins of single celled amoebas that can find their way through a maze and remember the location of food. All without the benefit of a brain, seems like having a brain is not that important.

By measuring the changing diameters of the slime Mold's tubes, the researchers noticed that when it found food, it developed a computer simulation of the organism's behavior, researchers found that the tubes closest to a morsel of food got thicker while those farther away, withered and sometimes disappeared entirely. Given their observations, the researchers think that when the slime Mold detects food it releases some chemical that softens the walls of nearby tubes, allowing them to expand.

Researched by- Aneesha De



## WING 'CLAP' SOLVES THE MYSTERY OF BUTTERFLY FLIGHT

How does a gorgeous but tiny butterfly flutter, literally like a 'butterfly'? You will be surprised to know how even a delicate butterfly also uses physics to fly. It forms an air pocket between the wings which, when the wings collapse, makes the jet even stronger and more efficient. This creates a certain thrust that helps in making their flight easier.

The flexible wings dramatically increase the force created by the clap. Their speed is further increased when faced by predators, meaning every flutter of their wings is actually a neatly calculated application of Physics that would put even aerodynamics to shame. Luckily, this is more of an embedded and intuitive gesture on butterflies' behalf rather than their attempt at being the next Einstein. Better luck catching a butterfly next time!

Researched by- Aneesha De



## BALLET STAR OLEG IVENKO ON REPRESENTING UKRAINE ON THE WORLD STAGE.

In 2018 one of Ukraine's most famous ballet stars, Oleg Ivenko made his debut in movies with *The White Crow*. In the movie, Oleg portrays a young Rudolf Nureyev, the Russian legend considered the greatest dancer of his generation. During this role, Ivenko found himself forging a deep connection with the character he was portraying because they shared the same values, life philosophy, etc. 4 years later Oleg Ivenko now returns to the part by performing a famous pas de deux in a celebration of Nureyev's work at London's Theatre Royal Drury Lane. Oleg Ivenko said, "I'm very sorry to see what is happening in Ukraine".



At the rise of the situation, he was in Poland shooting for a movie and grew very concerned because his family still lives in Ukraine. Oleg hasn't really lived in Ukraine for quite some time but prays that everything will be over soon. Holding on to hope, he considers this "just a small part of the story of the wonderful country of Ukraine." He firmly believes that representing Ukraine right now is extremely crucial and that every Ukrainian artist, dancer, painter, actor is doing their best to show people that all hope is not lost and that happiness can be found in the darkest of times, only if one doesn't forget to look hard enough.

- Saisha Arora

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## A VAGUE NIGHT SKY.

It was a hot summer night,  
Devoid of the phone and television,  
I went to my terrace garden.

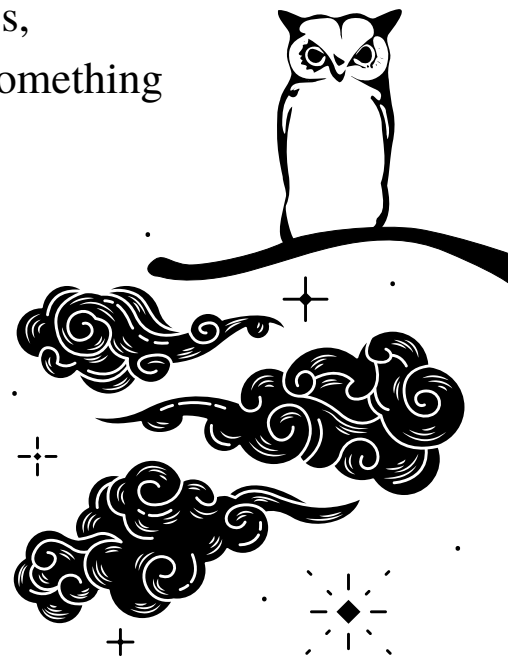
There lay something greater than me,  
‘The night sky’,  
Covered with stars so bright,  
They plagued the sky with their gleam.

So solemn the night was,  
So lost I was,  
In the grandiose expanse,  
Momentarily forgetting about the noise of the city.

The night held special significance,  
An insignificant vague nothingness,  
It was the same night I fell in love with something  
so precious to me.

“The night skies  
And the nights  
That are passed by  
Are still remembered by me.”

- URVII DEWAN.





# THE SKY THAT IS BENEATH ME

The sky that is beneath me  
someone has expressed it correctly.  
There is sky above you and below you.  
I have traversed the heavens above me  
Always wished to wander the sky beneath me  
So to fulfil my wish,  
I went for scuba diving

Probably the best thing I could ever do  
I had an experience which will stay in my  
mind until I take my last breath .  
I wore a wet suit which was too small for me  
Kinda irritated me but instead of ranting  
around.  
I prepared myself.

As we entered the ocean  
The world seemed to have stopped moving  
for a while.  
I was unable to believe my sight.  
In this universe, I perceived a different one.  
I was lost and all of my ideas appeared to  
vanish.  
I was mesmerised to see the beauty of the sky  
that is below me.  
The water was so clear that I didn't even  
realise I was submerged.  
The wetsuit no longer bothered me.  
I saw magnificent fishes  
They had those colors in them  
Which I had never seen before  
God knows! Which shade of blue were they

They were in bunches and moving  
Perhaps showing me the directions for other  
wonders.

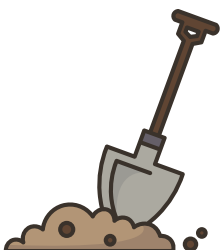
The large stones buried in the sand revealed  
to me that they were once part of a castle.  
A beautiful castle  
I learned a valuable lesson from the small  
turtle that was making an effort to get to the  
beach. That you should never give up no  
matter what

The fungi which was engraved on those  
stones were dancing just like daffodils when  
breeze blew over them  
They seemed like expressing joy and  
happiness  
Maybe because they have got the privilege of  
living there.

I have a request to god  
That if the fact of life after death is true  
Please make me part of that place  
That sky was parallel to the above sky  
Never ending

I wanted to take a ton of photos  
To show a glimpse of the sky that is beneath  
the earth to the the whole world.  
But couldn't take it  
Some pictures i do have  
that is all my memory.

- Riddhi Chauhan



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# CREDITS.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:  
MARIYAH DEDAT.

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TEACHER-IN-CHARGE:  
MRS. SONIA SINGH

---

---

PICTURE CREDITS:  
NANDINI MITTAL

---

---

CONTRIBUTION:  
ANEESHA DE  
VIJETA SINGH  
SAISHA ARORA  
VANESSA ALAM  
RIDDHI CHAUHAN  
URVII DEWAN

---