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# Mumbai: Artists Organise Online Session To Discuss Issues Of Urban Poor

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Artists of Apna Adda

Several artistes across genres from Mumbai came together in the virtual world to participate in 'Apna Adda' on November 27. 'Apna Adda', an initiative by Apnalaya, is an attempt to foster dialogue on various aspects of urban life through artistic



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The artistes included the renowned Qissago Danish Husain, an actor, storyteller, poet and theatre director, and Hussain Haidry, a spoken word poet, writer and lyricist.



The event also featured Faizan Khan, better known as Faiz BBX, a beatboxer and student of The Dharavi Dream Project, Asia's largest afterschool of hip-hop. Fourteen-year-old Ayush, also a student of the school, performed a rap and raised important questions on social issues.



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Apna Adda also saw a performance by Hubnath Pandey, a poet and Hindi professor at Mumbai University who narrated a poem about the workers who were killed on the train tracks while going back home. Nagma Mulla, President and COO of EdelGive Foundation narrated a story on how the lockdown impacted individuals differently and how oblivious one can be to another person's struggle.

Apart from artistes, youth from Shivaji Nagar also participated in the event. Taufiq Shaikh, a 12-year-old student, beat boxed, while 15-year-old Sania Mistree wrote and performed a rap, with the support of Sadiya.

The rap was titled 'Chalo theek hai', where she spoke about the hardships the urban poor faced during the lockdown, and how they were ignored.

Professor Himanshu Burte, an architect and urbanist, said that, "Apna Adda is one space where people from different backgrounds come together and have conversations which include politics, development and personal reflection. We need spaces where we can speak about all this."

Organisers ended the event with a promise to arrange more Addas to continue this effort at building an inclusive city.

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