**STARTALK 2021 Student Program Overview**

**“Heroes Rise: Indian and Pakistani Heroes Impacting the Local and Global Community”** serves as the theme for Kean’s 2021 Online Hindi and Urdu Global Project-Based Learning Program. The theme will guide instruction and learning that facilitates growth along the language proficiency continuum and development of intercultural and global competencies through engagement in meaningful, interactive learning experiences that connect culture, content and language.

Learners will investigate past and present heroes in India and Pakistan and determine the characteristic traits of different types of heroes through reading or viewing culturally authentic materials while reflecting on essential questions, such as: How do Indian and Pakistani heroes and “she-roes” reflect their cultures? Do the qualities that make a hero evolve over time fit the characteristics most admired by the culture at that moment in history? How do the Indian and Pakistani cultures recognize/reward their heroes?

Learners will then focus on acquiring information about specific heroes who have made an impact in India, Pakistan or worldwide by addressing a local/global issue(s), such as human rights issues or others identified in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. They gain additional perspectives about targeted heroes by engaging in daily cross-cultural interactions through Skype with students from our partner school in India (Heritage Xperiential Learning School in Gurugram) and in Pakistan (The Happy Home School) and with invited “real life heroes.”

For their **final project**, in collaboration with partner school peers, they will use knowledge gained about past and present Indian and Pakistani heroes as the context for the development of a Website through which they will create stories, poetry, music and digital media projects to recognize the contributions of these heroes. The “Heroes Rise” website will also serve as an advocacy platform urging individuals to emulate Indian and Pakistani heroes by tapping into their own “hero within” and taking an active role in the heritage community here and abroad to improve conditions locally and globally. Learners' projects will be shared as well with MyHero (http://www.myhero.com) an organization dedicated to projects submitted by students about the work being done by heroes globally and at the grass roots level to address current global challenges.