

# The Laurencian



**YEAR BOOK**  
**2022-2023**















**YEAR BOOK  
2022-2023**



## VISION |

To nurture the conscience and intellect of every student and staff member in a caring and inspiring environment.

## MISSION |

Create a cohesive identity of a 'Lawrencian' whose learning orientation cultivates ingenuity and innovation, courage and compassion with an inherent spirit of universal responsibility.

Engender a culture of continuous 'life long learning' through the development of curricula and innovative pedagogy.

Build synergy at various levels of its human resources to facilitate a safe, healthy, caring and student's centered co-educational residential 'living and learning' space.

Develop and sustain quality systems in School governance, educational and support services, performance review and continual improvement.

Harness the collective energy and talent of our alumni, assimilate and internalise the legendary Lawrencian spirit of "Never Give In".





A large, dark silhouette of a statue, possibly a person standing on a pedestal, is positioned on the left side of the page. The background of the entire page is a deep blue gradient, with a vertical strip on the left showing a sunset sky with orange and pink clouds. The statue is dark and stands out against the lighter sky.

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**K Prabhakaran**  
Headmaster





# | From the Headmaster's Desk

This year has been a very challenging year!

The School reopened after a prolonged fight with an invisible enemy (Covid-19). However, the lockdown and the disruption of the routine did not cripple the spirit of the Lawrencians as our motto is to, 'Never Give In'.

Within a short period of time, we got back our act together and excelled well in all aspects of life. The academic performance and university placements of the Class of 2023 are commendable. The students' participation and achievements in co-curricular activities have been at its peak. More than 450 students participated in sports and other co-curricular activities at various levels.

I take this opportunity to thank the Board of Governors, Staff, Students, Parents and the Old Lawrencians for their constant support and guidance.

Education is a process of self-discovery, adapting and evolving according to the changing times. In short, Lawrencians had a great year of excellence. Through the pages of this magazine, we have tried to capture some profound moments of School life in Lovedale during the year 2022-23.

Happy reading!!



# Editorial



It is with immense happiness and joy we bring you the first Annual Lawrencian for the year 2022-23 in print after nearly three years. We were stopped in our tracks owing to the COVID pandemic.

## 1. Founder's 2022

When Founder's season come around in September 2022, the days became bright and began early. We all walked with a sense of purpose. Founder's itself brought sunshine and a little rain. Excitement ran rampant through our corridors. The entire school was filled with noise and pure, unfiltered joy. The air felt crisper, the colours seemed brighter. A day was spent in the parent – teacher interaction but the next was the highlight. The parade started the day off, blue – and – red, in perfect synchronization. The audience and spectators were left awe-struck by the various displays and exhibitions followed this, dances, singing, music and art. The day a close with the beating retreat. All three bands played with the magnificent sunset behind, that perhaps made our hearts beat a little prouder, made us march a little swifter, Founder's brought us together, in our small victories and our losses.

## 2. CM's CUP

Lawrencians participated for the first time in the Chief Minister's cup, in February 2023, a tournament reintroduced after years in Tamil Nadu. It was an enormous event with mass participation. The coaches put in tremendous effort training the teams that played with their entire spirit. The atmosphere that entire week was buzzing with excitement weeks of blood, sweat and tears paid off when we met with rivals, both old and new, and most of us returned to school with triumphant smiles. As for those who didn't, the CM's cup served as a learning experience and encouraged the teams to strive for improvement. But results are secondary, for in the end, Lawrencians play the game and 'Never



Give In'. The excellent sportsmanship shown during this tournament is what sport is all about.

### 3 Athletics Meet

Ready, set, go... Athletics meet, one of the most highly anticipated events of the year, never fails to engulf us in its magical embrace / atmosphere tilled with high energy, loud cheering, creative costumes and banners, intense competition and most importantly, a sense of house pride and belonging. Everybody contributes something, making us all feel like a part of community. This year was no different, with characters such as Princess Jasmine, Buttercup, Jack Jack, Smurfette, and a host of others, making an appearance with pounding hearts, sweet hugs, gleeful smiles and, of course, trophies to add to our House collections, we bade farewell to one of our favourite events of the year, reluctantly referring to normalcy.

### 4 Career fair

The year 2022-23 took a hold start with a career fair organized by Karthikeyan sir and twenty dedicated students of the eleventh grade. He always knew how to make it easier for us. The career fair organized on 1st September 2022, had colleges from across the globe, who brought a little bit of their culture to us. The feeling of being overwhelmed, nervous before approaching someone, confused and relief of it ending up becoming a great event took us through a roller coaster of a ride. Discoveries were made of oneself and the world after Lawrence to as extent. Decisions were looked upon, made rectified or changed altogether.

The above are only some of the delightful things that happened during the year. As you turn over the pages of The Annual Lawrencian – 2022, you will be greeted with the story of Lawrence as it happened during the year 2022-23.

Happy Reading!



# Valedictory Speeches

Manjiri Phansalkar, Head Girl – Class of 2023



Good evening, respected Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster, Bursar, HODs, Deans, MICs, Teachers, Staff and my fellow Lawrencians.

It feels as though it was just yesterday that I was seated amongst the audience, listening with all my attention, to the speeches of Rashmika, Ahalya, Rajeshri and Shreya, knowing not that I myself would stand here someday, out of the extra and yet not the “ordinary” .

21st of February 2023, that is today and 21st of March 2023. Just another month and I will be off-grounds. However, in the next few minutes, I will surely make up for the 5 years, 6 months and 18 days of my life in Lawrencia.

Through the course of my speech this evening, I intend to convey a piece of learning to my fellow students and ounces of gratitude to the staff and this glorious institution.

I was admitted to this School on the 3rd of August 2017-a Thursday. It was the first time that I'd spent 24 hours without my parents having a watch over me. I wasn't scared, I didn't cry, I didn't regret. All I did was “wait” and “watch” and prepare for a “stronger” me, every single day.

6 months in the Prep School, I found myself in what I then called “a mini man's domain” . Yes, it was the Girl's School where I set my foot in on the 18th of April 2018.

Standing alongside the bunked bed assigned to me in Nilgiri Dorm II, dressed in Khaki, with the very same crew cut I had until

Founder's 2022. This was the picture Aruna ma'am clicked of me, as she bid me good luck for my life in Girl's School. That picture continues to bring back every grain of nostalgia, even to this day.

Another year passed and we remained the junior most in Girls' school, knowing little of the catastrophic virus we were about to encounter in November that year and in March 2019. We were all sent home, owing to the Pandemic.

A virtual year changed so much from the normal and we still find ourselves handicapped in some way, adjusting to the new normal. The second wave hit in April 2021 and I was left with no choice, but to stay put in school for a few days, as my parents shifted across states, to our new house. That was when I turned 16, 16\_solitaire in 750 acres.

Things changed, this time for the better and we began a comparatively “back to normal” routine, a year ago, in February 2022 That caught me unawares of what I was stepping into. Time flew and it was the 25th of May 2022 that the body of 20 was announced.

9 months since then, I have spent each moment of being an “Individual Lawrencian” first and then a part of any subsequent gatherings.

Now when I mention the word “Individual”, I do not merely hint at the meaning of the word, but the very essence of the word “Individual” .

In relation to this, I have something very concrete to present to



the audience today, which is that all of us, in some way or another, encounter life at its best and worst extremes. However, we must not forget the power of each one of us individual selves and our thoughts, while at the same time ensuring that we, forever and always remain our number 1 priority, no matter who says what and what happens when. . .

Life is like water as it has a tendency to flow. As much as we are a part of this flow, we fail to navigate it. Therefore, we must learn to go with the flow, until we find ourselves confident and strong enough to navigate “the flow”.

I decided to make this sentence a part of my speech this evening, because as an individual first and then the Head Girl, I have faced many situations, wherein giving up the “3” seemed to be the best solution. And believe you me, I was convinced to put a firm full stop to the “and so on”.

But for every Akbar, there is a Birbal and as fate would have it, choice for me, then, was never a choice. . .  
That was when I sought to think better than simply feeling, for the heart is biased but the head remains firm on the ideals you lay for yourself.

At this stance, I shift my focus to pillars of this institution, the staff. The list is long, never-ending and yet crisp, crisp and reliable.

So, I begin by thanking the Headmaster for each and every one of the opportunities that have reached to us like a gift.

The Deputy Headmaster, for that hand-on-our heads, in moments of all sorts.

The Bursar, for always providing us with the better of the lot.  
The Deans, for preparing us always with, but the best.

The Heads of Departments, for making us capable, both kinaesthetically as well as intellectually.

The masters and mistresses in charge, for guiding us in the right way and not letting us escape with all that we've wronged.

The teachers, for mentoring us and teaching us.

The house masters and mistresses for their emotional support at each step of our school life.

The matrons, not only for ensuring our wellbeing and smart attire but also for each of those days, when we have come to you with the most delighted faces, expecting some extra tuck!  
The administrative staff for making life in Lawrencina, a dream come true.

The support staff, for being the catalyst to the smooth functioning of this institution.

The institution, as a whole, for entrusting in me this bona fide responsibility and the certitude of duty.

And lastly, my parents, for their values and the conviction with which they dropped me off knowing not of what this place could make of me.

“Thank you” to each one of you who make out of us, strong and proud Lawrencians.

“Thank you” to each of you for making 'Lawrencina' feel like home. “Thank you” for unintentionally becoming our most cherished memories.

Thank you - a simple 8 letter phrase, cannot even begin to wholly incorporate the thoughts of my mind.  
However, I hope that it has conveyed the infinite emotions that my soul holds onto.

As I conclude my last speech as a student, I have but one last thing to say:

It was just three paces to my left that I stood with my right arm stretched out and had solemnly promised to maintain discipline, lead in the right way and uphold the honour and good name of our school. I had also promised to discharge my duties honestly and impartially. Well, so did 19 others.

What I did differently, was an obligatory oath to myself, to live up to the very effort that got me standing here on the evening of 6th of August 2023.

To the batch of 2023 – I thank you from the depths of my heart for making me a much stronger person. I never would have possessed this degree of fortitude, strength, courage and resilience had it not been for you. May I dedicate this quotation of Anthony Daniels to you:

“Truth is not the first casualty of war alone; it is the first casualty of populism.”

Thank You.

# Valedictory Speeches

## Sivakummaran, Head Boy – Class of 2023



Good evening, everyone. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the class of 23 on this overwhelming occasion where we come to terms with the bitter realization that school days are coming to an end.

April 7, 2014- the day some of us became a part of this family that certainly got bigger and better over time and here we are on the 21st of February 2023, gathered here for our farewell assembly, filled with a sense of gratitude, passion, and love for our dear old school. I remember the exact moment I told my parents that I wanted to study here, it was the moment that my eyes caught the Gymnastics statue sculpted by Mr. P.E Thomas. Today, the culmination of many such small yet significant stories has brought each one of us here.

Batch of 23, much like the name suggests, is an odd batch. I say that because we are the first batch to have ever attended only two classes in a day, write exams in dorms (well we all know how it went except for the one time when Regan sir had come...), to have the luxury of having an informal extended prefectorial body-comprising of the Archive's Head Boy and the Swimming captain. A day without Baba De's advice, Hari's heist for clothes, Scully and Hitchcock making fun of Bompelli's 'accident' in the ninth's corridor, echoing greens Foota (Rohan no rematch), resisting Aahana's plans to mass bunk, Kaval's Shahriss, and some Gudipudi-ness, is going to be incomplete however just like how we took the plunge to enter senior school despite all the concocted stories, we must once again muster the courage to enter the real world that everyone enjoys warning you about.

All that set aside, we must be proud of the fact that we survived. We survived the captain's relay disputes, Arpit's many misgivings,

Shanti ma'am's wake-up calls, Patel's hairstyle, Manan's platonic relationships, Viraj's 'Dheeme Dheeme' obsession, United's dry run and Liverpool's fall from glory.

Thank you Batch of 23, by the way Scully and Hitchcock are Harshil and Vishnu.

The custom demands a Head Boy's message, and I think my Lawrencian journey is the greatest message I can impart today. Starting out as a meek, soft, and naïve boy in prep school and after nine long years, the people have indeed been responsible for shaping the person I am today. This place can do wonders, allow yourself to become a product of Lawrencia.

Whatever you may do, have no regrets. Though there is always a better outcome, it is necessary to absolutely give it your best shot and keep at it. Speaking of having no regrets, it is okay if you are Harshil and you dream about getting into Wharton only to find yourself sleeping all day, it is okay if you had encountered some embarrassment, besides it cannot be worse than PA's and it is okay if you are Nithilan and you got the wrong one!

My speech would be incomplete if I did not acknowledge the efforts put in by each one of you to make the 164th Founder's Day a fantastic and memorable event. Despite the thunderstorms, the pouring rain, the scarcity of time, and of course the Head Boy's fainting drama, we pulled it off.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the RMO and the entire medical staff for supporting me throughout and the headmaster for his constant visits, Gijo sir for the extra supplements before the parade, Prakash sir for being more than



just a coach, Sangeetha ma'am for the turmeric, and the prefects for believing in me till the final day. Our practice was a testament to the fact that Lawrencians exhibit the true 'never give in' spirit when our backs are against the wall. I am sure the Academic teachers are wishing that we reciprocate the same in our board exam. Well, do not underestimate the power of a Lawrencian but before that,

On behalf of the science students, I would like to thank CJ ma'am for her unwavering faith in teaching them despite having Bhiwapurkar in class. On behalf of the commerce students, I would like to thank SD sir for exhibiting patience every time the carpenter opened his mouth, and on behalf of the Humi students, I would like to apologize to all the teachers but the students never actually attended any classes.

I must take this opportunity to thank the teachers' community for your support and guidance in every step of our journey, be it in classrooms or the playground. We are truly fortunate to have built a meaningful relationship with you to the extent that we are accustomed to your trademark dialogues and abilities, ranging from CRS ma'am's 'poda', Preslin ma'am's 'Strong Mails', DhM's ability to say no in multiple ways, Sherpal Sir's insane rhyming scheme and NDK sir's overwhelming punctuality.

We thank you.!

Our Years in Lawrence can be summed up as such,  
Nine years of Lawrence; not enough, eight years of fooling Anna for the second share; not enough, seven years of parade; not enough, six years of Anirudh's physics classes; not enough, five years of NDK sir's Math classes not enough, four years of senior school; not enough, three years of being labeled the 'Covid Batch;' not enough, two years of Seniority; not enough and the final year abound with everything; is once again not

enough. I really hope I can say the same for tonight's dinner, counting on you 1 1 ths!

I am going to go ahead and say it one last time, Lawrence is not just a school it is an emotion onto itself. We started as homesick kids, and in no time, with happy and unforgettable memories harbored in our hearts, we have reached this juncture- where we cannot help ourselves but be grateful for everything that we got. But most importantly, we are privileged to be a part of this institution that makes each one of us describe it as a home.

On behalf of the class of 23, I would like to thank all the people who make this place excellent. To the administration for giving us a holistic experience, we thank you, to the teachers who have in effect become our second parents, we thank you, to the matrons who give us the best pastoral care possible along with the occasional extra tuck shop, we thank you, to the support staff who made every day a comfortable and secure one to spend, we thank you.

A special thanks to Manan- my partner in crime, well we were assigned to stop any, to the prefectorial body for having our backs, to the riding team whom I have made innumerable memories with, to the batch of 24 for your assistance in organizing this evening, to the prep school teachers who will always hold a special place in my heart, to my housemaster for his absolute faith in me and the senior school for your cooperation and for making this an unforgettable journey.

I conclude with a poem written by one of our own, Eric H Karlson  
Of the days foretold

None ever held such a hold  
Such as that of the day  
When all the heart cried was stay

To know a place, a people  
To see every day that glorious steeple  
To know for sure who is friend and foe  
To see joy melt in with the occasional woe

That brimming love spilt o'er the fields  
Where friends could never stop catching each other's heels  
Oh, here me this day! Here- where I'm most alive!  
This is that citadel where my heart shall forever lie

That foretold day has now arrived  
That citadel- a home of mine, now to be left behind  
A hole in the heart now made,  
A heart that is now pierced through time

Now a weary traveller on the Rhine  
Seen a hundred cities, but none were so fine  
That once holed heart now keeps the time  
So as to return once again to that glorious citadel of mine.  
Dear Lawrencians, At the dawn of life's endeavour, do not let yourself be moved when temptations come your way, just like a tree because we have once learned the great Lawrence Rule-To Never Give in.

Thank you.  
Hasta LA vista.





Class of 2023  
The Laureate School, London



ARAVALLI HOUSE



JUNIOR SCHOOL 2022 - 2023  
VINCHYA HOUSE



JUNIOR SCHOOL 2022 - 2023  
ARAVALLI HOUSE



# House photographs



JUNIOR SCHOOL 2022 - 2023  
VINCHYA HOUSE



JUNIOR SCHOOL 2022 - 2023  
ARAVALLI HOUSE



JUNIOR SCHOOL 2022 - 2023  
ARAVALLI HOUSE





YOUNG LAWRENCIANS 2022 - 2023

ARAVALI HOUSE





YOUNG LAWRENCIANS 2022 - 2023  
NILGIRI HOUSE





YOUNG LAWRENCIANS 2022 - 2023  
SUMERU HOUSE  
| 14 |





YOUNG LAWRENCIANS - 2022 - 2023  
VINDHYA HOUSE





YOUNG LAWRENCIANS 2022 - 2023

PREP BOYS





JUNIOR SCHOOL (2022 - 2023)  
ARAVALLI HOUSE  
WE COME, WE SHARE FOR THE FUTURE WE PREPARE





JUNIOR SCHOOL (2022 - 2023)  
NILGIRI HOUSE  
WE COME, WE SHARE FOR THE FUTURE WE PREPARE





JUNIOR SCHOOL (2022 - 2023)  
SUMERU HOUSE  
WE COME, WE SHARE FOR THE FUTURE WE PREPARE





**JUNIOR SCHOOL (2022- 2023)**  
**VINDHYA HOUSE**

**WE COME, WE SHARE FOR THE FUTURE WE PREPARE**





ARAVALI HOUSE 2022 - 2023  
GIRLS SCHOOL





NILGIRI HOUSE 2022 - 2023  
GIRLS SCHOOL





SUMERU HOUSE 2022 - 2023  
GIRLS SCHOOL





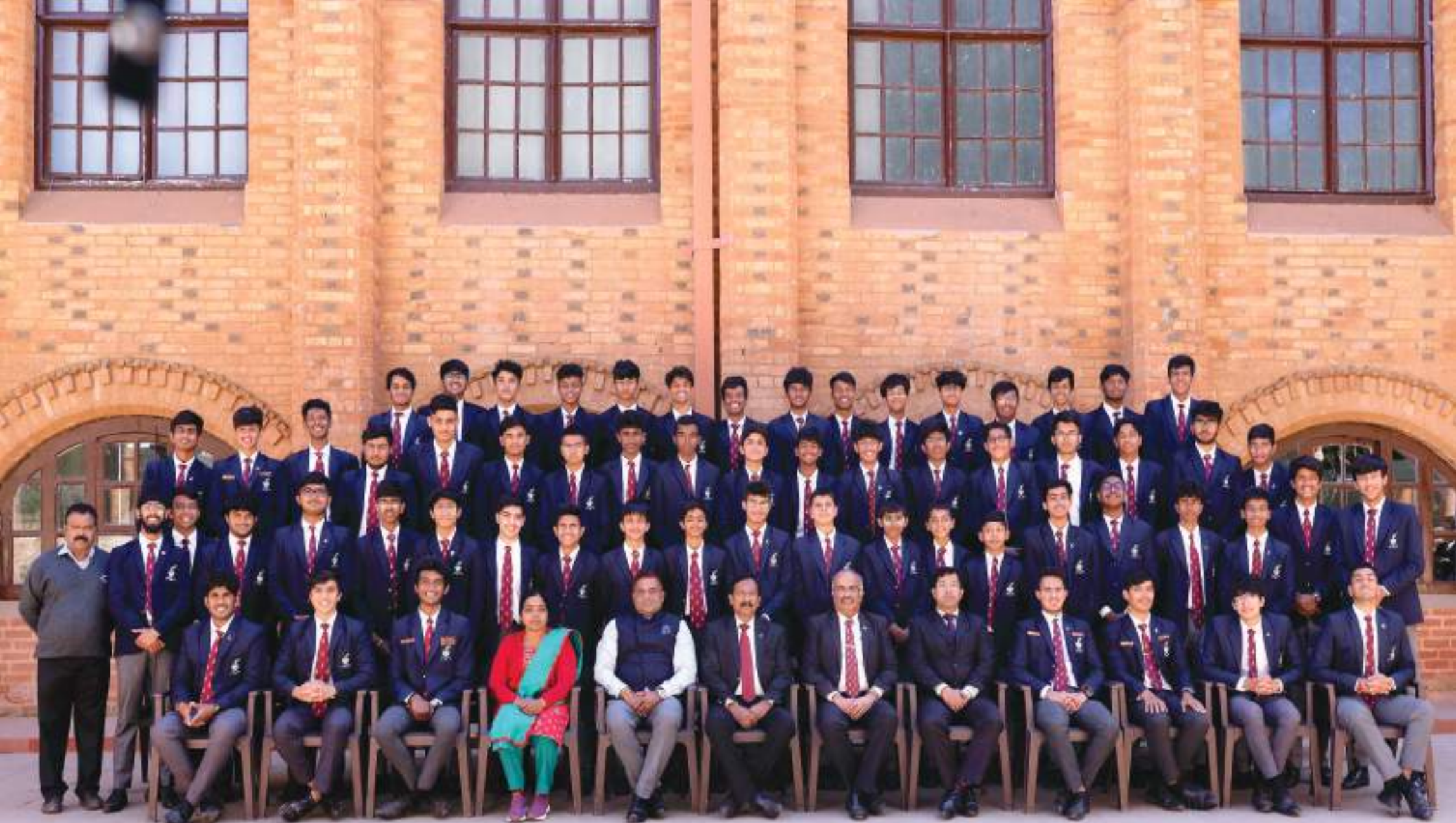
VINDHYA HOUSE 2022 - 2023  
GIRLS SCHOOL





ARAVALLI HOUSE 2022-2023  
SENIOR SCHOOL





NILGIRI HOUSE 2022 - 2023  
SENIOR SCHOOL





SUMERU HOUSE 2022 - 2023  
SENIOR SCHOOL





VINDHYA HOUSE 2022 - 2023  
SENIOR SCHOOL

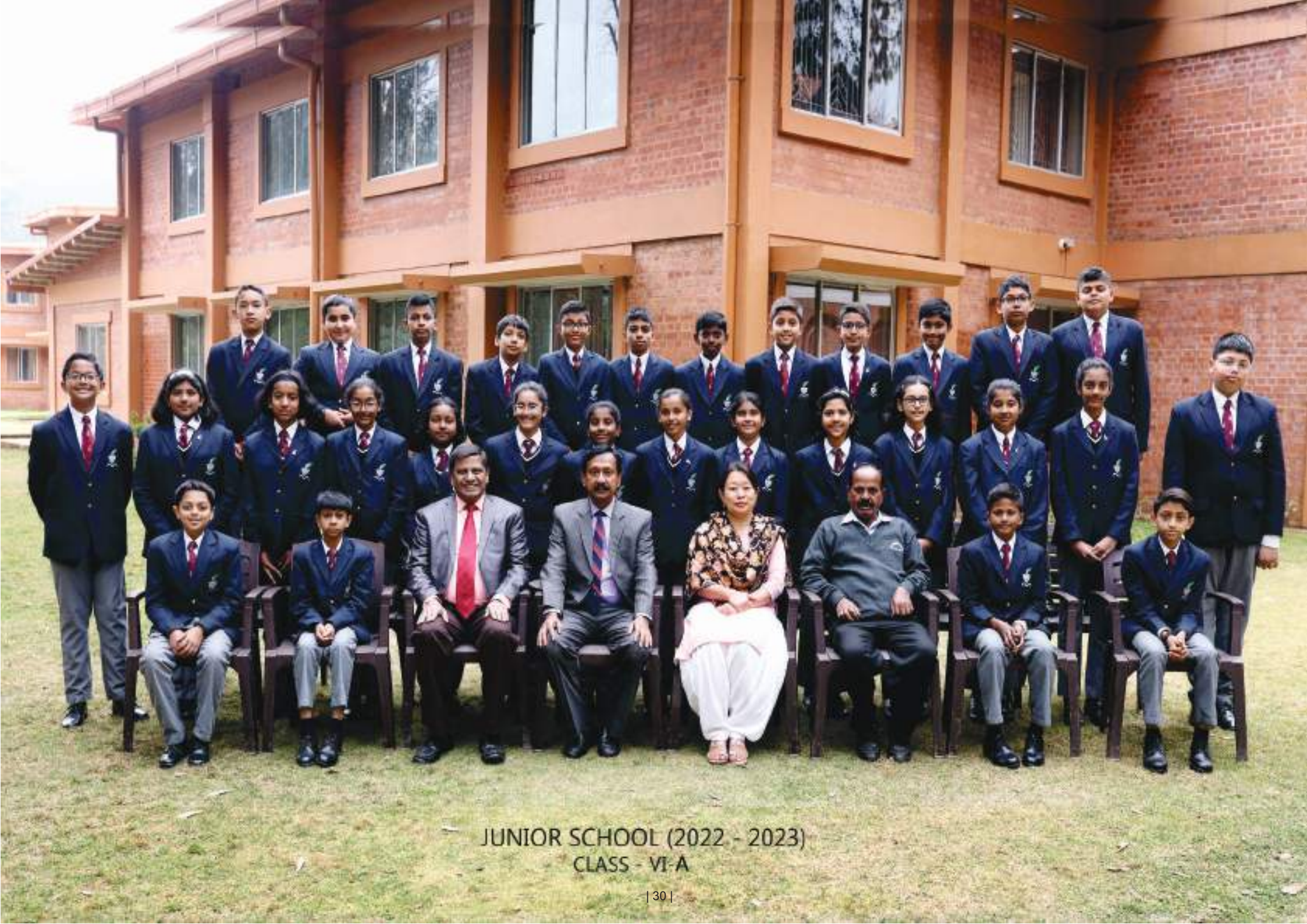




# Class photographs







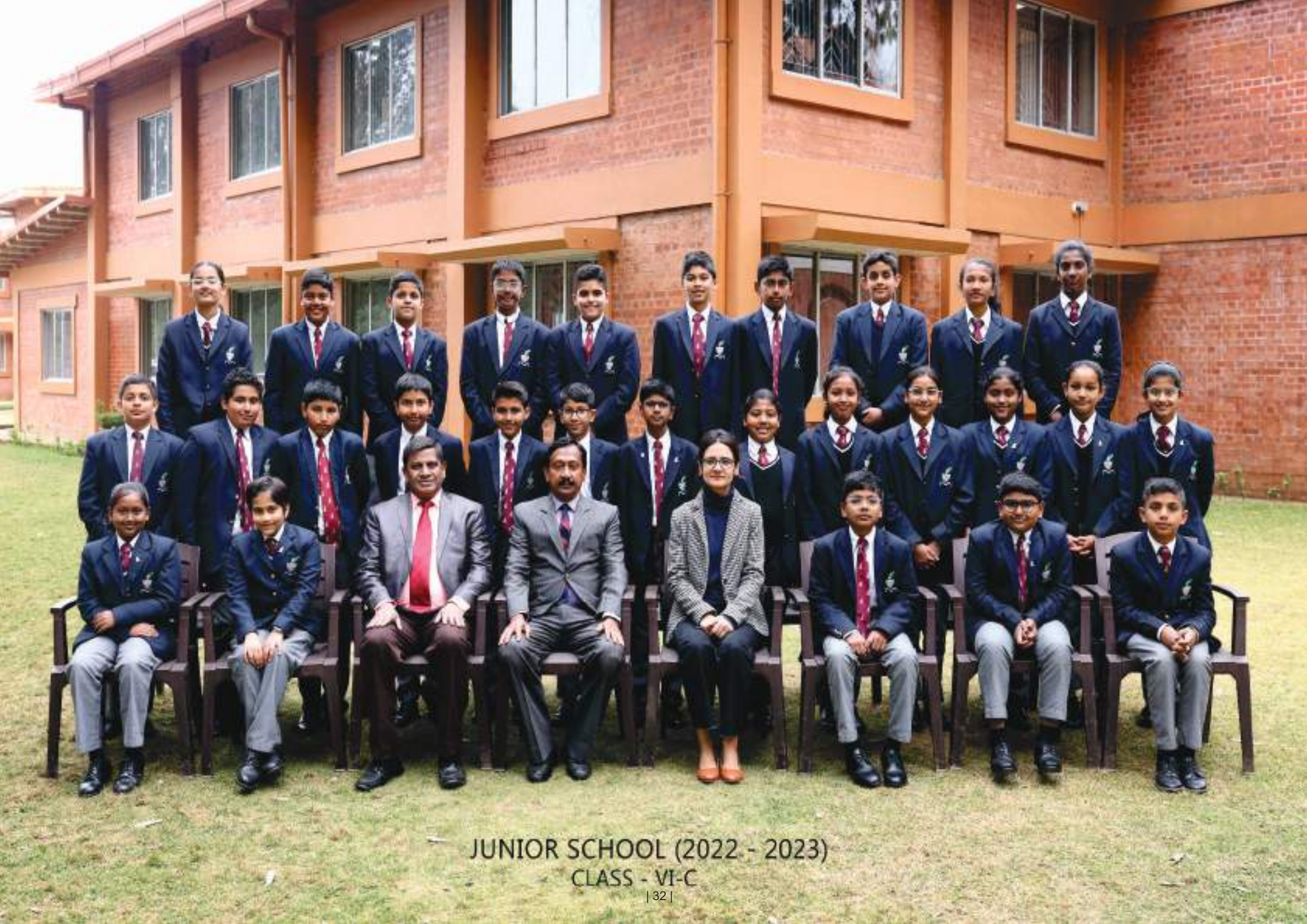
JUNIOR SCHOOL (2022 - 2023)  
CLASS - VI-A





JUNIOR SCHOOL (2022 - 2023)  
CLASS - VI-B





JUNIOR SCHOOL (2022 - 2023)

CLASS - VI-C





JUNIOR SCHOOL (2022 - 2023)  
CLASS - VI-D





JUNIOR SCHOOL (2022 - 2023)  
CLASS - VII-A





JUNIOR SCHOOL (2022 - 2023)  
CLASS - VII-B





JUNIOR SCHOOL (2022 - 2023)  
CLASS - VII-C





JUNIOR SCHOOL (2022 - 2023)

CLASS - VII-D





JUNIOR SCHOOL (2022 - 2023)  
CLASS - VIII-A





JUNIOR SCHOOL (2022 - 2023)  
CLASS - VIII-B





JUNIOR SCHOOL (2022 - 2023)  
CLASS - VIII-C





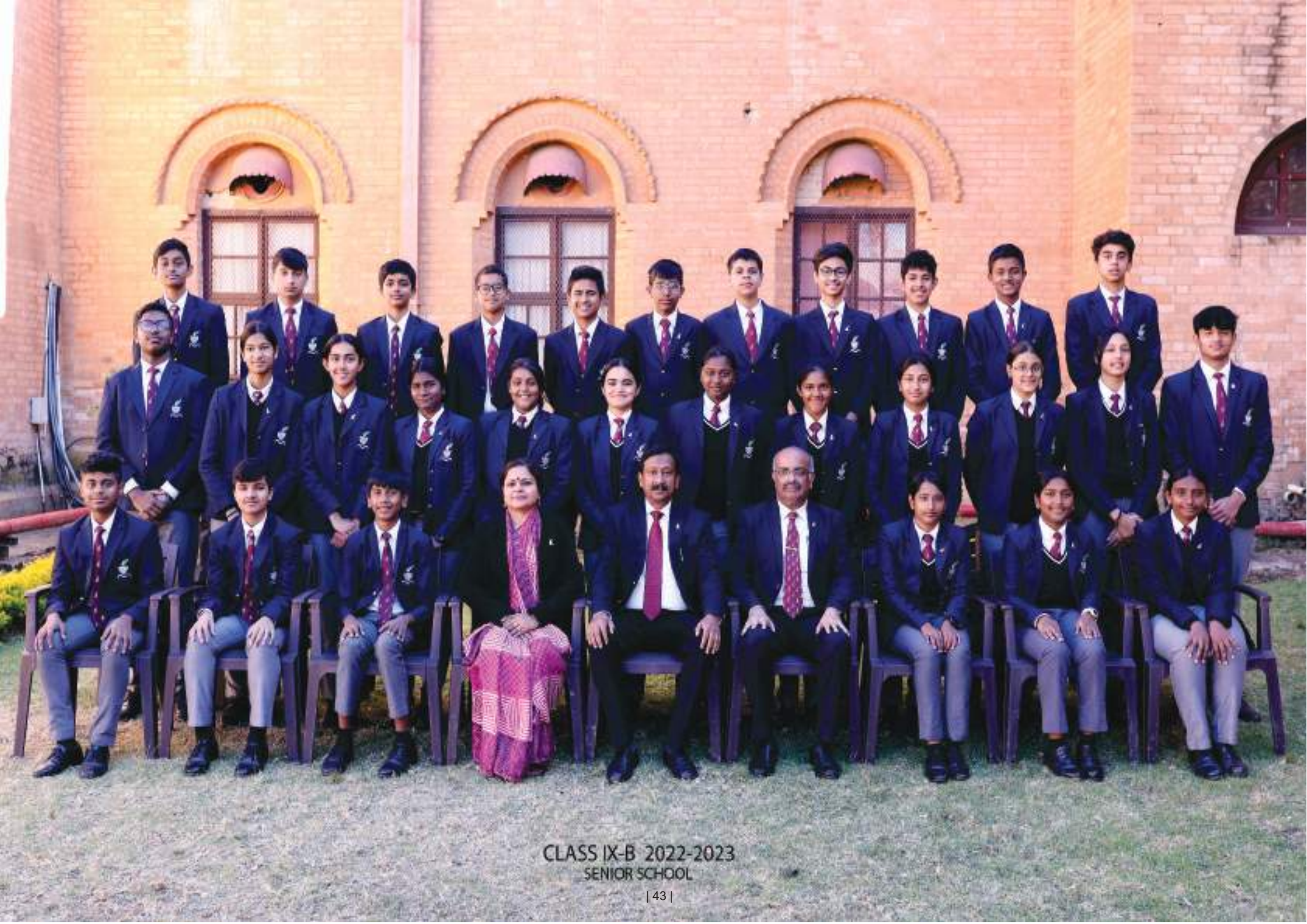
JUNIOR SCHOOL (2022 - 2023)  
CLASS - VIII-D





CLASS IX-A 2022 - 2023  
SENIOR SCHOOL





CLASS IX-B 2022-2023  
SENIOR SCHOOL





CLASS IX-C 2022 - 2023  
SENIOR SCHOOL





CLASS IX-D 2022 - 2023  
SENIOR SCHOOL





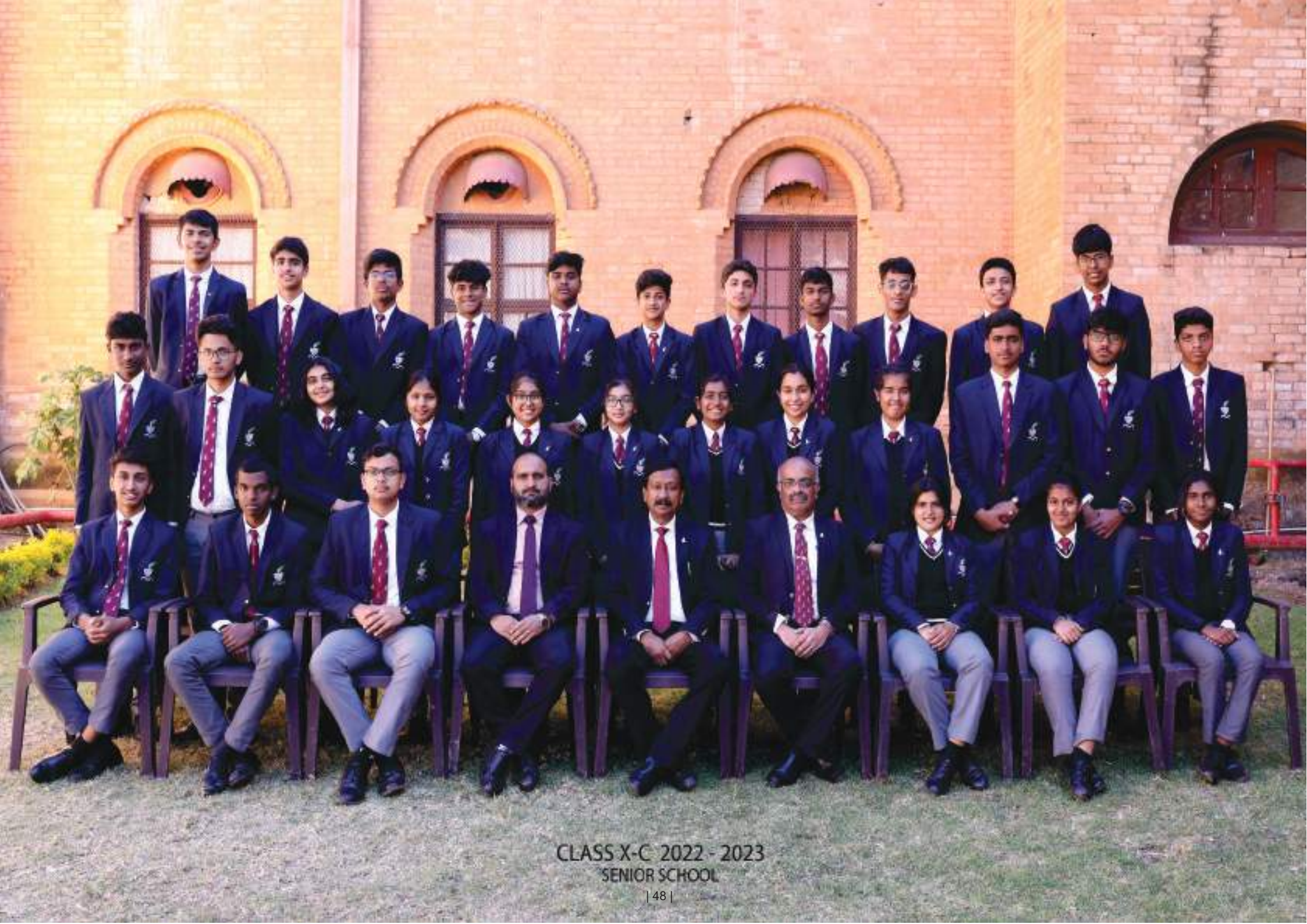
CLASS X-A 2022 - 2023  
SENIOR SCHOOL





CLASS X-B 2022 - 2023  
SENIOR SCHOOL





CLASS X-C 2022 - 2023  
SENIOR SCHOOL





CLASS X-D 2022 - 2023  
SENIOR SCHOOL





CLASS XII-A 2022 - 2023  
SENIOR SCHOOL  
| 50 |





CLASS XII-B 2022 - 2023  
SENIOR SCHOOL



CLASS XII-C 2022 - 2023  
SENIOR SCHOOL







'Class of 2023'  
The Lawrence School, Lovedale



# | Headmaster's Annual Report





May I now present the Annual Report...

The COVID-19 pandemic forced schools to shut down all across the world. As a result, education changed dramatically. In response to this extraordinary situation, The Lawrence School, Lovedale initiated online classes for the students. We used various platforms such as the Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Cisco Webex and GoToMeeting. We used the Exam.net portal to conduct assessments, tests and examinations online. We strengthened the IT Infrastructure of the School with a dedicated internet leased line connection, high-performance systems, superior quality Cameras and wired and wireless Microphones. We conducted 112 online classes daily, during the Covid lockdown.

#### **C.B.S.E – Results for 2021-22:**

The School has achieved a 100% result in both class X and XII CBSE Board Examinations. In class X, out of 118 students, 85 passed with distinction, 32 passed with First Division and 1 passed in Second Division.

#### **Toppers of class X:**

- |                                |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Nirek Agrawal               | : 97.7% |
| 2. Asmi Mital                  | : 96.5% |
| 3. Jyothi Harichandana Velpula | : 95.7% |

One student in Mathematics, one student in Science and one student in French have secured full marks (100/100).

In class XII, out of 82 students. 76 passed with distinction and 6 students passed with first division.

#### **Toppers of Class XII:**

##### **In Commerce Stream:**

- |                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| 1. K. S. Nirun Shrinivas | : 96.2%. |
| 2. Nishant Rajesh Todi   | : 96.2%. |

##### **In Science Stream:**

- |              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| 1. Nakul Raj | : 94.2%. |
|--------------|----------|

##### **In Humanities Stream:**

- |                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| 1. Mihika Kakati | : 96.2%. |
|------------------|----------|

Three students have secured full marks (100/100) in Business Studies. The Class average in Business Studies, Fine Arts, Physical Education and Geography is more than 90%. The School congratulates all the students and the teachers for producing excellent results.

I'm happy to inform you that the School has introduced Political Science in the Humanities stream for last year and Artificial Intelligence as a skill subject for this year.

#### **Activities**

The pandemic did not deter us from participating in various virtual Inter-School Competitions. When we reopened after the Lockdown, our students also participated in various Intra and Inter-School events as well.

Our students, Ashmit Bharti and Manjiri Phansalkar stood second and third at the 41st Lawrence Memorial Debates, 2021.

Tanvi Hemraaj and Priyanka Lakshmi represented the Lawrence school, Lovedale in the virtual Interschool French poetry recitation competition organized by the Mayo College, Ajmer, in October 2021.

In September 2021, Dev Agarwal of class X participated in the Inter-school Hindi Radio Jockey Competition and in the same event Ashmit Bharti participated in the Inter-school Hindi Poetry recitation competition organised by The Lawrence School, Sanawar.

I'm happy to inform you that Arpit Ravichandran of class XII was adjudged the second-best speaker at the virtual All India Nanhi Chaan English Essay Writing Competition which culminated in a round of Debating and he was awarded a Cash Prize of Rs. 15,000/-.

Our students also participated in the Glendale Virtual Debate, Declamation and Poetry Writing Competition, the Rajmata Krishna Kumari Girls School IPSC Inter-School virtual debates, the Cross Fire Debate of The Debating Society SRCC, Delhi, The La Martinieri Debate and Quiz, the Platinum Jubilee All India Online English Debate, Quiz and Speech-Writing and the CONFLUENCE 2021 – Multi-Format Debate under the aegis of the RSIS ably guided by the Teachers of the Department of English.

#### **Co-Curricular Activities**

##### **Inter-House English Poem Recitation**

The Class V Inter House English Poem Recitation was the first Inter House Competition that was held in the School after the COVID pandemic. All pupils from Class V took part in the first round of the competition that was held online.

Eight pupils who were selected for the final round represented their four Houses. The final round of the competition was held in the Prep School large hall on the 8th of March, 2022.

##### **Field Trip to Botanical Gardens**

The pupils of Class V were taken on a field trip, the first such venture after the COVID -19 Pandemic, to the Ooty Botanical Gardens on 25th March 2022. The trip also gave an opportunity for the children to showcase their knowledge of various flowering plants and trees, both exotic and endemic.

##### **IAYP**

The IAYP adventure journey camp was organized in the first week of April 2022 at Kotagiri. Some of the Activities the 85



students who took part in this Camp are as follows:

1. 16 km trek
2. A Study about the Nilgiri biosphere
3. Tent pitching
4. Visit to the Catherin fall
5. Cooking by the students
6. Campfires

### **Co-Scholastic Activities**

It's my pleasure to inform you that our students brought laurels to our School at the IPSC Visual Art Fest 2022, hosted by Rajmata Krishna Kumari Girls' Public School, Jodhpur.

- i) Best work of Art Award was given to A.S Rinu Avantigaa, Niharika, and Stuti Nilesh Ingle of class XII
- ii) People's Choice Award was given to Aiyana Goswami of class XII
- iii) Promising Young Artist Award was given to Aiyana Goswami and Stuti Nilesh Ingle of class XII
- iv) Special Commendation Award was given to Mandala Khushi Kiran of class XII
- v) Special Commendation Award was given to Vidur Varshan of class X

### **Investiture – 2021**

a) When the School finally reopened in February this year, we appointed the Prefectorial Body for the year 2021-22 and they were sworn in at the Investiture held in April 2022.

Former Vice-President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu Visits Lovedale  
On 18 May 2022, the former Vice-President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu visited Lovedale. He had, earlier, expressed his desire to visit the School. We never wasted a moment making it happen! Shri M Venkaiah Naidu addressed the Staff and Pupils here in this Large Hall and left them encouraged and greatly inspired.

### **Investiture – 2022**

The Headboy, Headgirl and the Prefects for the year 2022-23 were sworn in at a solemn ceremony held in the Senior School Large Hall on 6 August 2022 at 6.30PM. The investiture was witnessed by the parents of the twenty students who were entrusted with the duties and responsibilities of leading the School in the right way.

The Chief Guest for the Investiture was Rear Admiral Philipose George Pynumootil (Retd.), AVSM, NM, who is also an Old Lawrencian, Class of '82.

### **Independence Day:**

After 2 years, we celebrated Independence Day together with our Pupils and Staff on 15 August 2022.

### **Sports**

Physical Education is an integral part of our system. The Department of Physical Education has always endeavored to fulfil the basic objectives of sports by providing state-of-the-art infrastructural facilities.

During the Covid pandemic, the Physical Education Department successfully conducted online classes for various sports.

Upon their return to School after the COVID Lockdown, more than 100 students represented our School at various IPSC tournaments in Football, Hockey, Tennis and Basketball.

Our Boys' Basketball team represented Nilgiris at the Inter District Tournament at Coimbatore from 29th July to 1st August 2022.

The Lawrence School Girls Basketball team took part in the 17th Lady Honoria Basketball Tournament for Senior Girls which was held from 6th to 8th May 2022 at The Lawrence School, Sanawar.

Aashmika Dinkar of Class 10 bagged a bronze medal at the Sub Junior Archery Nationals at Rajasthan in April-2022, where she represented the Tamil Nadu State. She also gave a marvelous performance by winning Five medals in the 13th Tamil Nadu State Archery Championship which is held in February 2021.

Adoksh of class 9, Aarav Arun Kumar and Aryan Singh of class 8 got selected for the SGFI Football U-14, to represent IPSC at the Nationals.

The School celebrated the Fit India School Week from 14th November to 12th December 2021 by organizing various programmes in the School.

Nine students from our School took part in the Fit India Quiz Competition conducted by the National Testing Agency through an online test on 15th November, 2021.

Aditya Singh Gohil of class XII qualified in the Regional Equestrian League in Jaipur and Delhi and participated in the Junior National Equestrian Championship 2021 held in Mumbai.

### **Career Development Center Activities**

The School's Career Development Center has helped many students find college placements after their Board Examinations. The School organized various workshops on career counselling for students and parents to help them understand the college application process.

- a. Four students appeared for Advanced Placement tests and scored the maximum score of 5 in several subjects.
- b. Knowledge-sharing sessions were conducted by the Old Lawrencians on various topics of interest.



- c. For the year 2021 and 2022, Students of our school were admitted in the following college/universities as follows:
- Delhi University
  - St. Xavier's, Mumbai
  - O.P Jindal University
  - KREA University
  - Azim Premji University
  - NMIMS, Mumbai
  - Flame University
  - K.C College, Mumbai
  - Mithibai College, Mumbai
  - Christ University, Bangalore
  - St. Josephs college, Bangalore
  - Manipal University
  - Shiv Nadar, VIT, SRM
  - Ashoka University,

I would also like to mention that 1 student got a 100% scholarship and another with 50% in Ashoka University.

Some of our students have also been placed in the best foreign universities which are:

- University of Toronto, Canada
- University of British Colombia, Canada
- Oberlin, USA
- Penn State University, USA
- UC Davis, USA
- Texas A&M, USA
- Bristol, U.K
- University College London, U.K
- Nottingham University, U.K
- Durham University, U.K
- Kings College, U.K

### **Highlights of Career Development in our School are as follows:**

1. Our school has been approved as an SAT examination center from this year.
2. A Career Fair was held on 1st September 2022 with 65 universities taking part in the event.

### **The LSL Career Fair - 2022!**

#### **Highlights**

58 Universities from India, USA, U.K, Canada, Australia, Japan, Ireland and Spain took part in the Fair.

The Students of classes 9 to 12 attended the Career Fair.

All top Indian Liberal Arts and Science Universities were also present at the Fair which included The Ashoka University, KREA University, Azim Premji University, Flame University, and the Shiv Nadar University.

### **Staff Training and Development**

We have always striven for excellence in curriculum transactions. In-service training has always been a part of our teacher development plans.

34 teachers have attended the CBSE and the NCERT workshops in this year.

KREA University conducted a Mental well-being and Art integration workshop in July this year.

### **Workshops**

#### **Mental Wellness Workshop by Carpe Diem for Students and Teachers**

Carpe Diem is an organization founded and led by women with a vision to destigmatize mental well-being. Acceptance for all is key to Carpe Diem, inspiring it to design services that cater to the needs of individuals across the age span and stakeholders involved. They conducted mental well being sessions for students of class 12 and a session on understanding adolescent behavior for teachers and the pastoral care staff associated with those students.

The session for Girls focused on the adolescent girls toolkit, empowerment and personal safety.

The Boys' session focused on empowering adolescent boys and gender stereotyping.

The Teachers' session focused on communicating with adolescent boys and girls

### **Infra-Structure Developments**

Last year, the School Administration managed to renovate all the support staff residences and also constructed 7 new support staff quarters near Principal's Lane.

We are also initiating the construction of 9 support staff quarters at the Old Post Office Lines.

An SBI ATM opposite our main gate is likely to be operational within a few weeks.

I take this opportunity to place on record my sincere appreciation to all my students and my staff who have striven so diligently within a short period of time to prepare for the Founder's. Despite the unpredictable weather conditions, I'm proud to say that my students and my staff continued uncompromisingly to perfect their part of the Act. I shall be honoured if you join me in congratulating them on their endeavour.

On behalf of the staff and students of The Lawrence School, Lovedale, I thank the Members of the Board of Governors for their keen interest and continued support in making this Institution progress from strength to strength.

Thank you!



# Founder's Day Celebrations in pictures













## Trooping the Colour









## |Equestrian Display









## Beating Retreat

























## | Prize Giving



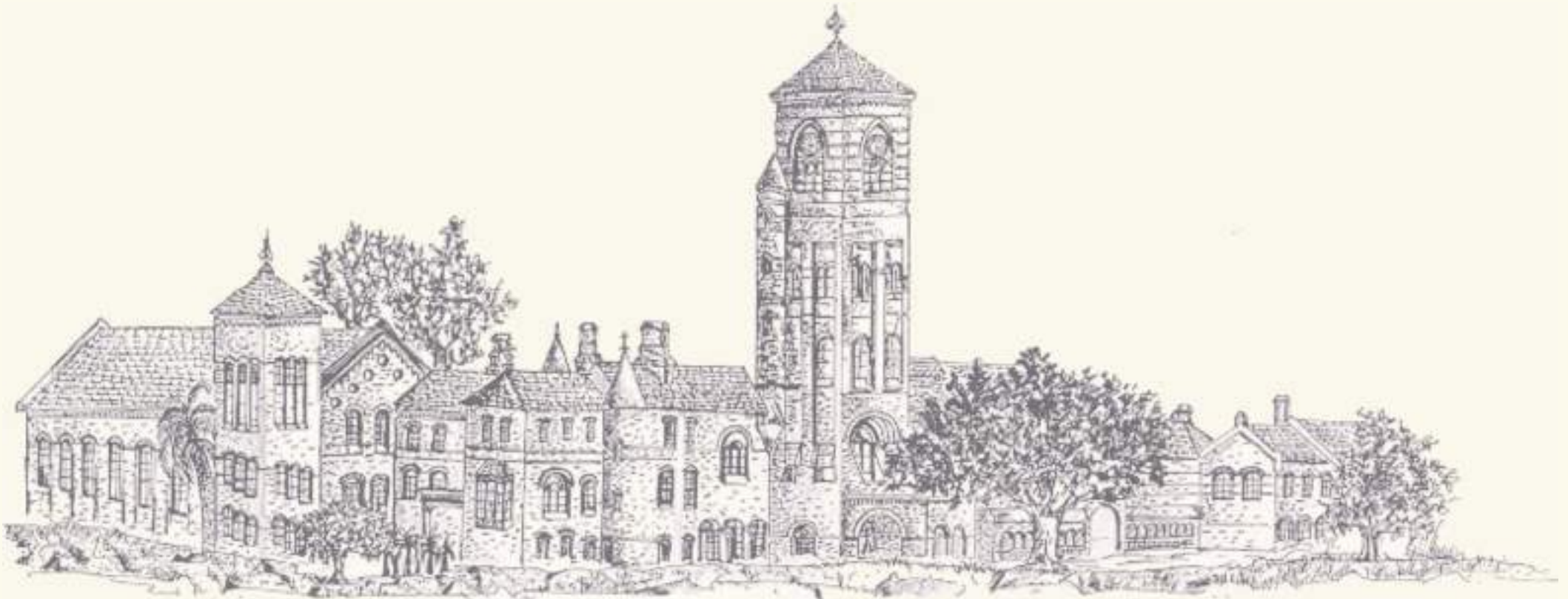








# Reports





# Honourable Vice-President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu

Visits Lovedale – 18 May 2022







18 May 2022 will be etched in the annals of Lovedale's history in gold as we were fortunate and privileged to receive the Honourable Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu into the hallowed portals of our School. The Honourable Vice-President had expressed his desire to visit Lovedale and we never wasted a moment to make it happen. Even the rains and the stormy weather could not stop us. Westorm and made the Vice-President's visit a grand success!

The Vice-President was received at the Front Lawns with fanfare and was the Guard of Honour which the Headmaster, Mr Prabhakaran ushered the Vice-President into the Large Hall and onto the Stage. Shri Ramachandra, Minister for Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu, also accompanied the Vice-President.

The Programme in the Large Hall commenced with the singing of the National Anthem which was followed by the Headmaster's welcome speech at the end of which he invited the Honourable Vice-President to address the gathering.

Shri Venkaiah Naidu, a towering figure, tall as he is, made his way to the lectern in slow, measured steps. He then began his address. As he spoke, he had everyone in rapt attention. The address was punctuated with a humour so full of wisdom that the message was driven home as it was intended to be.

The Vice-President began by saying that he has been touring the country ever since and meeting the students and teachers of the IIMs and the IITs and other top institutions to encourage and motivate them. The need of the hour, the Vice-President said, was to 'Indianize' Education and to instill in the youth a pride for our Country. Referring to India as the seat of learning from ancient times, the Vice-President said that with the advent of the British, India had lost track of her



glorious past. Valuing our celebrated ancient culture was of prime importance. Shri M Venkaiah Naidu was particularly concerned about the “invasion of Western Culture” which manifests itself in the indiscriminate use of the mobile phone and the television which makes the youth take to matters in an easy manner and which, in turn, makes them 'crazy'. “Easy and Crazy would make the youth Lazy!” said the Vice-President.

The youth of a nation, the Vice-President said, can bring about a change in its fortunes as India stands on the threshold of becoming a leading nation of the world. Addressing the pupils, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu said that their future and our nation’s future went hand in hand. He further said that it was their responsibility to ensure to take the country to newer heights and make India one of the world’s greatest nations.

The Lawrence School, Lovedale with its rich past of 164 years has given the pupils a lineage of traditions and values which serve as their roots. Building on that robust foundation, the pupils would have to take the School and the society to the zenith of progress and development. The Vice-President said that the pupils of The Lawrence School, Lovedale were indeed fortunate to be recipients of an all-round education that is an amalgam of academic and co-curricular learning. Shri Venkaiah Naidu reminded the pupils that they must also bear in mind the fact

that there are many children in our country who are not so fortunate and privileged as they are. Therefore, they had a greater responsibility and obligation to the society in that they must translate all that they have learnt in our School into action by doing all that was required of them for the assistance and development of the less fortunate.

The Vice-President exhorted the pupils to become true leaders and to this effect he spelt the four ‘Cs’ of Leadership, namely, ‘Character’, ‘Calibre’, ‘Capacity’ and ‘Conduct’. A true leader is one who has all these four qualities in him or her.

Shri M Venkaiah Naidu emphasized on the empowerment of women. Women were accorded equal status from ancient times in India. Quoting Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, he said that the ‘beti bachao beti padhao’ movement must gain momentum. All girls in the country must be treated equally and be provided with equal opportunities in all spheres of national life, beginning with education. Women have excelled in all walks of life and have always made the Country proud by their achievements, the Vice-President said.

The Vice-President touched upon the importance of healthy dietary habits. He cautioned the pupils on the ill-effects of consuming junk food. “Eat Indian Food”. Indian food, he said, is prepared according to the needs of the people living in the country







and its seasons and the weather. The true wealth of our nation is the people and those who uphold good health. Rising early and going to bed on time is also necessary to maintain a healthy lifestyle. At this juncture, the Vice-President expressed his apprehension over the fact that many youngsters watch television till late into the night and wake up very late which he said, was detrimental to health.

Physical fitness also plays an important role in our everyday lives. Despite a hectic routine that involved attending to the affairs of State, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu said that he plays Badminton every day for an hour, not to compete with the likes of P V Sindhu but just to keep himself fit! He added that it was our responsibility to promote Indian Sports.

Shri Venkaiah Naidu said that he was happy to learn from the Headmaster that the pupils of Lovedale were already contributing to the betterment of society by undertaking projects ranging from cleaning the surroundings to rebuilding an entire settlement at the PRF colony in the Nilgiris by lending a helping hand to the Paniya community. He lauded the pupils for serving the flood-affected villages at Wayanad by helping the people there to reconstruct their houses as well as rebuild a school.

Finally, the Vice-President touched upon the true meaning of our School's Motto - 'Never

Give In'. He said that the Motto encouraged the pupils to Never Give In to Compromise, to Corruption and to Temptations. If the pupils followed these ideals, they would not only become fine human beings, they would also become true leaders of India and take the nation to a brighter and better future.

The Vice-President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu concluded his speech by wishing the Lawrencian community progress and prosperity.

Mementos were presented to the Honourable Vice-President which included a book titled, 'Act Now or Lose' authored by Aditya Huralikoppi of Class 10, a pencil sketch portrait of Shri M Venkaiah Naidu drawn by Suhani Gupta of Class 12 and a portrait (in water colour) of the Vice-President painted by Tanvi Hemraj of Class 12. Headmaster then presented the Honourable Vice-President with a framed embroidered image of the magnificent facade of the main building of our School. Shri Ramachandra, Minister for Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu was also presented with the same framed embroidered image. Deputy Headmaster, Mr N Rajan, proposed the "word of thanks".

The gathering rose for the National Anthem after which the Vice-President's entourage left the Large Hall leaving all present therein with memories to cherish for a lifetime.



# |The Prefects' Council 2022-23









Head Boy : Sivakummaran J  
Head Girl : Manjiri Abhay Phansalkar  
Vice Head Boy : Manan Singhal  
Vice Head Girl : Asmitha G



Arpit Ravichandran  
Avyay K Nambiar  
K Priyanka Lakshmi  
J Sahana Sanghavi



Aniruddh V Iyer  
A Nithilan  
Tisha Saxena  
Palak Agarwal



Devansh Patel  
Vignesh G Shankar  
Navya Shorey  
Moli Shah



Rishab De  
Siddhant Suraj  
Tanvi Hemraj  
Raagini Mitmani











# **The IPSC Students' Leadership Conclave 2022**

Daly College, Indore





The IPSC Students' Leadership Conclave 2022, hosted by Daly College, Indore, was held from the 9th to the 12th of November 2022. Sivakummaran(Head boy), Manjiri Phansalkar (Head girl), Manan Singhal (Vice Head boy), Asmitha Gotipati (Vice Head girl), Arjun Sharandev and Diya Jaiswal (Class 11) along with Mr. Rajan Narayanan, Deputy Headmaster and Mrs. Sonali Ghosh (Department of Humanities) attended the Conclave. A four-day event, the Conclave included informative sessions and engaging activities to foster and encourage excellence in leadership among student leaders.

On day 1, the 9th of November 2022, the Conclave began with an introductory session on leadership challenges and solutions. This session focused on the description of one challenge that we had faced as the Students Council of the School and the manner in which we resolved the issue.



The Opening Ceremony of the Conclave was held on day 2, the 10th of November 2022. The ceremony began with showcasing the school flags of each delegation followed by a musical and a dance performance by our host, Daly College, Indore.

The keynote address was delivered by the Chief Guest, Dr. Anil Srinivasan who, very humorously, captivated the audience with his talk on individualistic perfection. A talk on emotional resilience by Dr Kiran Shandilya affirmed the ideology of communication, mindfulness and humane leadership.

During the post-lunch discussion, we were to rate ten world leaders out of a hundred, based on their positive and negative aspects of leadership. For the evening session, we had 'The Big Fight', similar to a TV news debate but with topics relevant to present-day leadership. The dinner named Shab-e-Malwa that





followed at the Principal's residence was indeed a dinner to remember! The highlight of the dinner was that we 'walked on fire'! Our day ended with a privileged chat with Dr. Anil Srinivasan.

The 3rd day, 11th of November 2022, kick-started with the Bhairavi Breakfast in the lawns. The delegates enjoyed their breakfast listening to the sitar playing Raag Bhairavi, the 'Queen of Morning Raagas'!

The day was dedicated to group activities designed to instil a sense of teamwork. The evening donned the robe of a traditional DJ night followed by a sumptuous dinner.

On the fourth and final day, the 12th of November 2022, we were introduced to leadership lessons that we imbibe from our surroundings in terms of aerial, terrestrial and reptile leaders. This led to a 'Prefect X – Mandarins Musings', similar to a Ted-X talk which was presented by our Headboy on the team's takeaways from the Conclave. Later that day, at the Closing Ceremony, we met actress Tisca Chopra who was the Chief Guest for the evening. We witnessed another extravagant dance performance followed by the Chief Guest's inspiring address to the audience.

The Conclave was an enlightening experience for us all and assisted us in setting a strong foundation for our future ventures in leadership.

By  
**Sivakummaran, Manan, Asmitha,  
 Arjun, Diya & Manjiri**



# Round Square International Conference

Oxford University, UK





The Round Square International Conference 2022 was held at Oxford University, United Kingdom. This conference was attended by over 600 schools with approximately 1500 delegates making this the largest-ever Round Square Conference to have taken place. Five delegates along with two teacher-escorts from our School attended this event. It was the perfect combination of learning, adventure, music, talent, thought-provoking talks, culture and of course some great friendships.

The theme of the Conference was, 'Take less and be More' which, as it implies talks about what it means to be taking less from society and giving back much more than we take. We learnt to live with less during the lockdown and were reminded that there is so much more to the world than just material things.

This Conference was an opportunity to share this experience of being more in the company of peers from around the world and bring forth something positive out of such friendships. The aim of this conference was to make a collective pledge as a generation, "that we will carefully consider what we take from the environment and from the people around us, and always give back more than we take."

Through the course of the conference, we were involved in various activities such as treasure hunts, Barraza sessions, listening to addresses delivered by keynote speakers and an alumni panel of the Round Square; all with an aim of inculcating extensive, thoughtful, practical and deep learning among all the delegates present there. Our evenings were filled with music and immense joy and we witnessed cultural performances, participated in the traditional old "Ceilidh" form of Scottish dancing, witnessed a play put on by children of Oxford under the name of "Bugsy Malone" and in this process made some strong friendships and saw life at its best.





We were also fortunate enough to visit the renowned Blenheim Palace which is the seat of the Duke of Marlborough. As a social service project, we were involved in plucking blackberries to be later provided to the Government.

Keynote speakers from around the world like Ben Fogle, Emily Penne and Sir Dieter Helm took us through their journeys and the conditions and opportunities of the dynamic world today. We had a great lapel pin exchange among the delegates there, as a token of remembrance and memories.

The 6-day conference made us see everything on a bigger scale and we realized how much more to the world there actually is. Towards the end, while bidding farewell to our friends and recalling all that we had done, our hearts were filled with gratitude and contentment for this wonderful opportunity that was provided to us. We had, indeed, made the best out of it.

It is rightly said that you will never know until you take the risk and that's what we did! We took a step out of our comfort zones and realized there was so much more that we could do.

**- Moli Shah & Beena Varghese**





# Classical Dance

Bharatnatyam - A Benign Boon





“Where There Is No Heart, There Is No Art”

– Anna Pavlova

“Samudra vasane devi, parvatha sthana mandale

Naatyam karishye bhoodevi Paadaghatha kshamasvame”

The above quotation literally translates to:

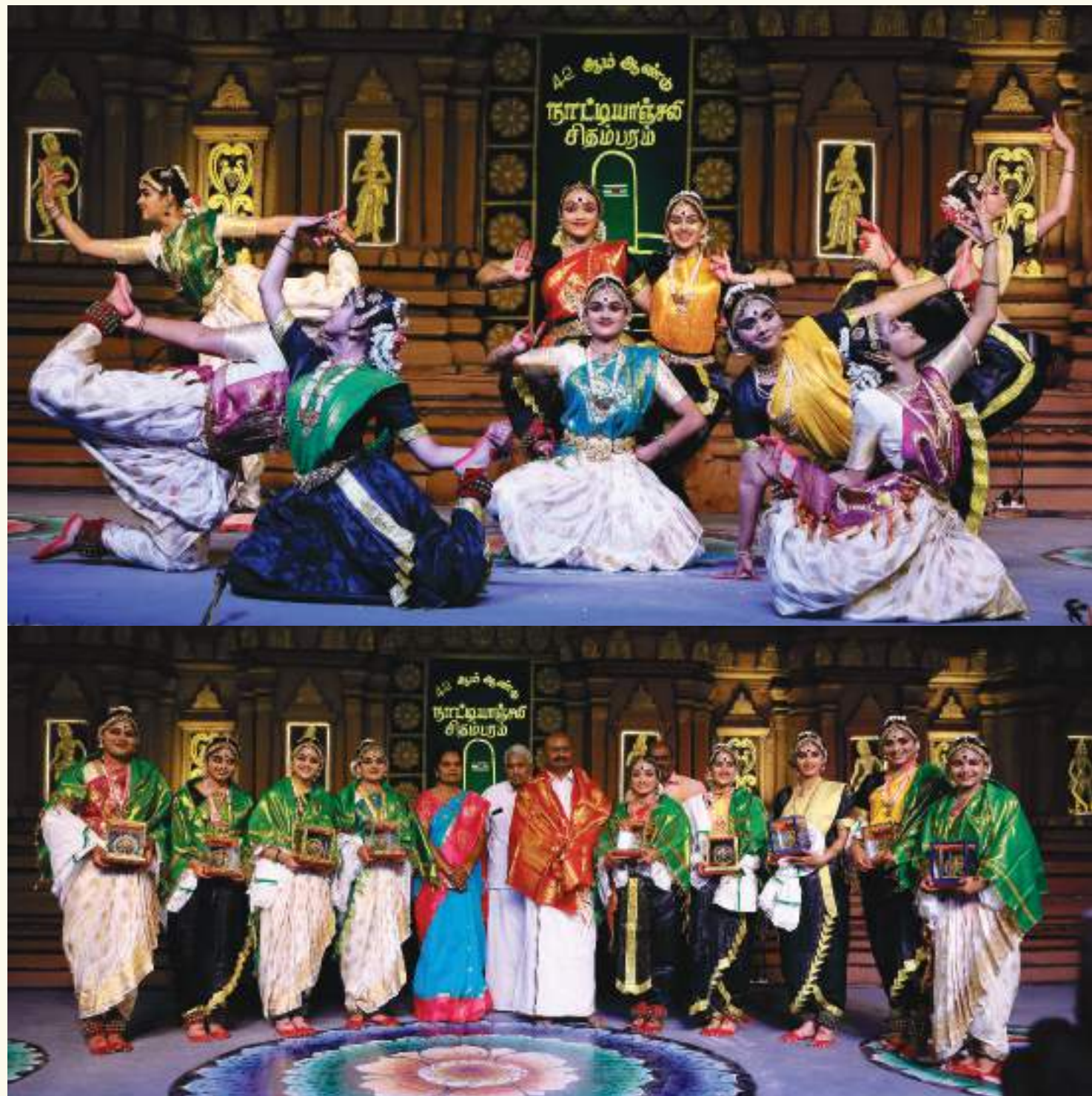
“Whose clothing is the ocean. Whose body is the mountains and plains. We dance on you, Oh mother Earth! Please forgive us for striking on you”

This was one of the first shlokas that we learned during our hobby lessons in the Boardroom, back in 7th grade when, at 12 years of age, we could barely define the extent of the adrenaline rush whenever the speeds of the Tatta Adavu or Natta Adavu would be increased or determine the extremities of charm that it could add to our persona.

For those who are wondering what exactly Tatta Adavu and Natta Adavu are, here is a short description on this particular form of classical dance:

The word, 'Bharatanatyam', is derived by joining two Sanskrit words: 'Natyam' meaning dance and 'Bharata' which is a mnemonic containing 'Bha' (bhava/emotions), 'Ra' (raga/melody), and 'Ta' (tala/rhythm).

An adavu is a combination of the position of the legs, standing posture, hand gestures and walking movement. In the language of Bharatnatyam, one can define it as a blend of Mandalam, Chari, Nritta hastas and Sthanakam. When these four elements are in complete synchronisation or Taal, it forms an adavu. There are 13 groups of adavus. Bharatnatyam comprises over fifty-five root mudras. These mudras or hand/finger gestures are used to communicate the narrative of the dance performance. There are two types of mudras in Bharatnatyam- the hand mudras called





'Asamyukta Hast' and mudras requiring both hands called 'Samyukta Hast'. There are thirty-two, one-hand mudras.

A Bharatanatyam performance consists of six portions: Alarippu, Jathiswaram, Shabdham, Varnam, Padam and Tillana and has three distinct elements to it: Nritta (rhythmic dance movements), Natya (mime, or dance with a dramatic aspect), and Nritya (combination of Nritta and Natya).

On entering the boardroom, the one thing that would catch my eye was Sabitha ma'am's tattakali- a wooden plank and stick and then would begin an extraordinarily astounding session full of energy, conviction and most importantly an indisputable bulk of dedication.

All of this was, however, not just on the student's part. A great deal of the students' energy comes from Sabitha Ma'am's vitalizing spirit, the conviction from her optimism and dedication - from her breath-taking performances.

My classical dance journey in School has varied greatly from playing a seemingly familiar role in a dance drama, to being the key player of an entire 19-minute segment of the post-pandemic 164 Founder's Day Celebration in 2022 and from fondly practising during hobby periods, to proudly holding a National Level Dance Competition trophy.

The relationship that the students share with Sabitha Ma'am is one that is best described as "pure" and "warm hearted", for there is no vacuum, no connect lost between the teacher and the student in any respect.

Classical Dance holds the capacity to instil the attribute of grace with coordination, consistency with devotion and perfection with dedication.



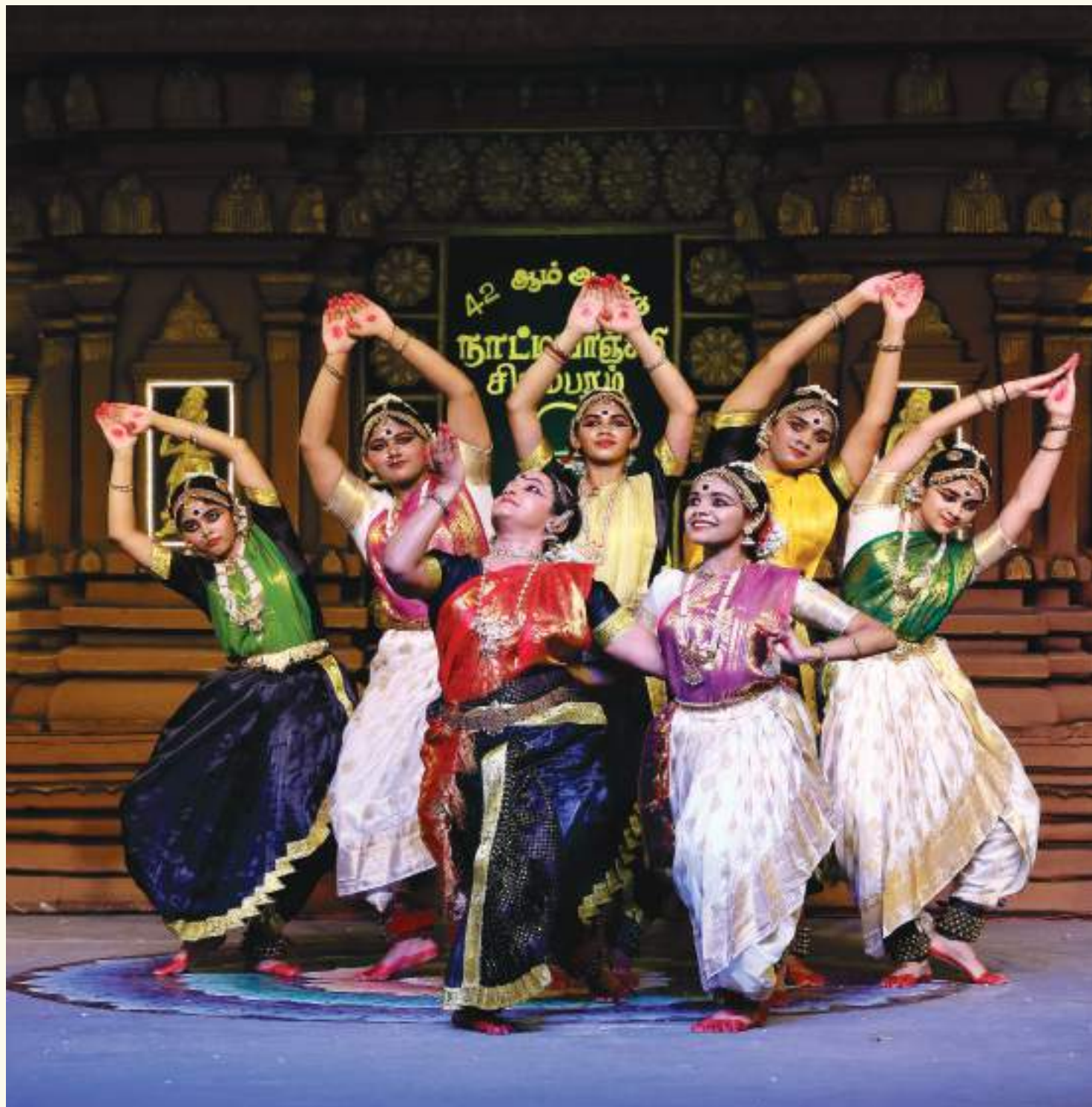


The Large Hall never fails to remind us of the hours of practice that we invest into making a dance piece flawless and it did even when we would practise for the AFS national dance competition and eventually emerged winners.

Years of practising this art form has now become our passion and its beauty, our pulse.

Various disciplines of an institution make it noteworthy, and for us dancers, it is this benign boon that we take pride in.

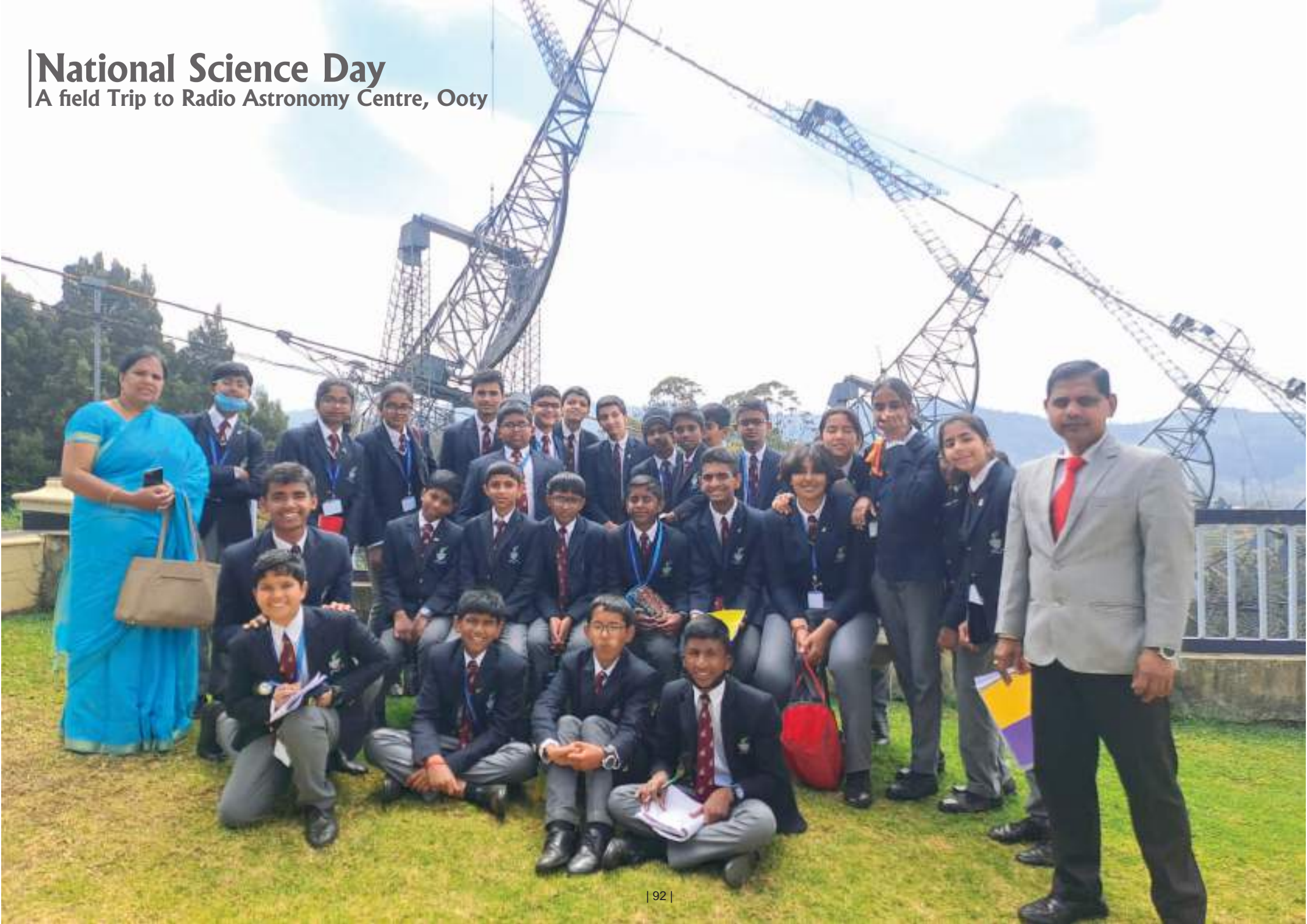
**Manjiri Abhay Phansalkar**  
Nilgiri house





# National Science Day

A field Trip to Radio Astronomy Centre, Ooty





## National Science Day – A field Trip to Radio Astronomy Centre, Ooty

National Science Day is celebrated in India on February 28th every year to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian physicist Sir C.V. Raman in 1928. The day is observed to recognize the importance of scientific discoveries and innovations in the development of the nation.

On this occasion, several events and activities are organized across the country to create awareness about the significance of science and technology. This year, junior school students had the opportunity to visit the Radio Astronomy Centre in Ooty, where they learned about cosmic rays and the solar system from experienced scientists.

During the visit, the students were introduced to the fascinating world of radio astronomy and its applications in studying the universe. They were amazed to learn about the different types of cosmic rays that constantly bombard the Earth and the way in which radio telescopes are used to detect them. The scientists explained the importance of studying cosmic rays in understanding the origin and evolution of the universe.

The students also got a chance to observe the one of the world's largest radio telescopes. They were able to see images captured by telescopes and satellites, and understand the scientific principles behind these technologies.

Overall, the visit to the Radio Astronomy Centre was a great learning experience for the junior school students, as they were able to interact with experts in the field and gain knowledge about the wonders of the universe. It is hoped that such initiatives will inspire young minds to take an interest in science and pursue careers in the field.

**Shashikala Radhakrishnan**  
Teacher - Science Department





# HAMPI

Educational Field Trip - 2022





A Unique experience that plants the seeds of curiosity, a sense of wonder and a hunger for adventure among the participants. The Department of Humanities organized an Educational Field Trip to Hampi as a part of classroom activities and outbound learning. Fifteen students of Class XII C and 2 teachers left for Hampi on 13th October 2022.

Hampi is one of the most beautiful historical sites in India. It was the first capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, situated on the bank of River Tungabhadra. Hampi is a cultural and architectural heritage site built more than 600 years ago. The site was constructed between 1336 AD to 1565 AD. This location is famous for its, palaces, market streets and monuments, making up the Vijayanagara Empire. Hampi was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO after discovering that the structures on the site represent India's beautiful ancient civilization.

Our visit began from the Vithala Temple. As the epicentre of Hampi's attractions, Vittala Temple is the most extravagant architectural showpiece of Hampi. The temple was originally built in the 15th century AD. Many successive kings have enhanced the temple campus during their regimes to the present form. The highlight of Vittala temple is its impressive pillared halls and the stone chariot. The halls are carved with an overwhelming array of sculptures on the giant granite pillars. The stone chariot located inside the campus is almost an iconic structure of Hampi.

Virupaksha Temple is the 7th-century Shiva temple in Hampi. Lord Virupaksha, also referred to as Pampapathi is the main deity in Virupaksha Temple. Virupaksha Temple complex also houses the shrines of Bhuvaneshwari and Vidyaranya. Our next visit was to the Royal Center. The following are the highlights of our visit.





The Queen's Bath is an indoor aquatic complex specially used for Royal family baths. It is the first ruined structure that greets us when we enter the Royal Palace.

Lotus Mahal is also known by the names Kamal Mahal or Chitrangini Mahal. It is a two-storied building with a blend of Indo-Islamic architecture. The most interesting feature is that it had a natural system of cooling integrated within the building.

Hazara Rama Temple is the only temple in the Royal Enclosure. As the name suggests, the temple is dedicated to Lord Rama. The relics on the walls of the temple depict the Ramayana and are considered the most extensive relics from all over India.

Hampi is not just a place of ancient ruins. Here we can see the co-existence of different religions and cultures. Hampi is surrounded by divine energy and makes us believe that God really resides here. The magic of this place will always mesmerize everyone.

- Department of Humanities









The Photography Club at The Lawrence School is one of the most popular club activities, providing young shutterbugs with an opportunity to express their creativity through various activities. The club members are taught the basics of photography, and are encouraged to apply their skills in capturing memorable moments in school. The Photography Club is an active contributor to the school website, providing captivating visuals that add to the school's online presence.

This year, the students of the school participated in Welfie - "Let Happiness Click," a photography competition on mental health among students, which was organized by the Rajmata Krishna Kumari Girls' Public School.

The Lawrence School won the following certificates  
Ap Vijay Aditya, Class 12: Certificate of Excellence  
Veeksha K, Class 10 : Certificate of Excellence  
Nitin Ishaan, Class 9 : Certificate of Appreciation  
Khushi S, Class 12 : Certificate of Appreciation  
YVK Kasi Pavan, Class 8 : Certificate of Appreciation

The club provides an opportunity for students to explore and express their artistic talents, while also developing a sense of creativity, imagination, and visual literacy.





# |Sculpture & Pottery Department





The Sculpture and Pottery Department at the Lawrence School had a fantastic year, with 286 students from classes 5 to 10 learning the art of Sculpture making and Pottery. The students demonstrated a high level of engagement and motivation in all aspects of learning the art.

One of the highlights of the year was the Founder's exhibition, which was held in September. Many students worked hard to put up the exhibition within a short duration of time, and it was a grand success. The exhibition showcased the talent and creativity of the students, and it was a true celebration.

The Lawrence School was also well-represented in the IPSC Visual Art Fest 2022 "Hum Ek HainHarmony" hosted by the Rajmata Krishna Kumari Girls' Public School, Jodhpur. Yoganjana K and Shreya Shah of class 9 competed in Tile Art, and Vidhur Varshan of Class 10 competed in Clay modeling. Vidhur Varshan was awarded the special commendation award for his sculpture titled "Shaping an Harmonious world".

Another exciting event in the Department was Sculpt- an inter-house Sculpture and Pottery competition. The competition was an opportunity for students to explore various topics such as ocean life, man-nature relationship, our school, and flora. The students' creations were awe-inspiring, and the competition showcased their exceptional talents. The results are as follows :

Prep School - Class 5

Position	Name	House
First	Ileesha M	Sumeru
Second	Riya Sre	Aravalli
Third	Harshan Arya	Aravalli





### Junior School- Sculpture

Position	Name	House
First	Yashovardhan	Sumeru
Second	Sinhanayan D S	Sumeru
Third	Yaara F	Aravalli

### Junior School- Pottery

Position	Name	House
First	Armaan SG	Vindhya
Second	Ameya B	Vindhya
Third	Aahan L	Nilgiri

### Senior School - Sculpture

Position	Name	House
First	ShriyanS & Rishab R	Vindhya
Second	Kartavya F & Devank	Sumeru
Third	Khushal A & Thanikachalam L	Nilgiri

### Senior School - Pottery

Position	Name	House
First	Niharika	Sumeru
Second	Anirudh I	Nilgiri
Third	Shivnethra	Nilgiri





The department is fully equipped with essential tools and machinery to enable students to explore the art form. We have two Skutt electric kilns, 10 pottery wheels, 2 pug mills, a slab roller, various sculpting tools and ample studio space to comfortably accommodate more than 15 students at any given time.

Sculpture students explore clay modeling, paper sculpture, wire sculpture, plaster and cement sculptures. Similarly, pottery students explore different building methods such as pinch method, coil method, and wheel throwing. Students gain hands-on experience in the ceramic glazing process.

Throughout the year, the students in the Sculpture and Pottery Studio showed a high level of enthusiasm and engagement.





# Career Fair - 2022







- 58 Universities from India, USA, U.K, Canada, Australia, Japan, Ireland and Spain took part in the Fair.
- Students of classes 9 to 12 attended the Career Fair.
- All top Indian Liberal Arts and Science Universities present for the Fair. Ashoka University, KREA University, Azim Premji University, Flame University, Shiv Nadar University were among the top universities.



# Founder's 2022

## P Shrivashan - IX A

The 164th Founder's Day which was celebrated on 5th and 6th of September 2022 was indeed a memorable one for each one of us in School. To begin with, I have to really appreciate the school's Administration for putting up splendid events. It would have not been possible if there was no determination, dedication and hard work from the teachers and the students when the practice schedule was announced and the classes were called off. The excitement kicked in when we were called for various practices like the Parade, Sunset Sensation and the Variety Entertainment. We were blessed to have very inspirational mentors with whom we worked day and night to ensure that everything was done to perfection. Days went flying so swiftly, which was barely noticed by all of us. Finally, the big day arrived and we all were so excited.

We all went with a great sense of joy, eating at the Paagal Gymkhana, meeting teachers, spending time with parents, and taking part in the Sunset Sensation. Though the Rain God hardly showed us mercy, as a group we decided to carry on. The next day, the Ceremonial Parade was held and we all took part in it with pride. The day carried on with prize distribution and various other events. The curtain came down on Founder's 164 with the Beating Retreat. Though the event physically came to an end, we were mentally filled with a sense of glory and pride as the prestigious event was successfully held with continuous support from the teachers, students and parents.





## Round Square at Lovedale







The Lawrence School Round Square Club is very active online and off line too. The Members participated in many online programs to meet like-minded students and discuss various issues affecting society. RSIS Lovedale participated in the SAI Global Debate organized by The Sai International School and Arjun Rajora received a special prize.

Our students attended various post card sessions such as “Portraits of success”, “Childhood Heroes in us”, “Should Electronics Gadgets be allowed in High School”

1. Six delegates from our School attended a conference which was organized by The Hyderabad Public School, in Hyderabad for the 11–12-year age group from 22-27th January 2023.

2. The Round Square Club members visited The Rehabilitation Centre for Differently Abled at Ooty and donated food items, chocolates, sanitary napkins for girls and toiletries.

3. The Round Square Club has taken up a project of book binding. The club members have collected the old books and unused pages and which could be given to the needy.

**Beena Varghese**  
RSIS Rep



# AFS Domestic exchange with SKV Gwalior





# |Creative Outpourings







**Mother**  
Dhanya Sahana - VI A

Marvellous!  
Of course, lovely  
The best  
Have always been caring  
Everlastingly awesome  
Rapidly active  
Mothers all over the world are like superheroes for us.  
Mothers always work day and night like machines for us.  
Mothers sacrifice their time and energy for us. Their love can never be repaid back to them. They help us with studies and lot other problems. They are superwomen in our lives. Whatever, we do to them is really less, for they have done to us is really a lot which we cannot express in words.



**Casper**  
Ira Singh - VI A

He was my best friend  
He was extremely cute  
I always used to play with him  
Whenever I would go to Indore

He was my first pretend horse  
after I was born  
I would ride on him  
for hours and hours  
and it was a lot of fun

He was awesome at meeting people  
to be honest, he was a bit famous  
when he used to do his Namaste  
my heart would just disappear

Yes, when I am saying this  
I definitely mean it  
I would give up anything  
to see him again



**Prefects**  
Nara Gathrisri - VI A

It is hard to be a Prefect all day long, especially when there are 39 students in a dorm. You have to deal with four different classes which is not as easy as we think it is. It's huge responsibility taking care of my dorm mates. I'm playing the role of the eldest sister. I am proud of myself, says one of them proudly. "It is quite hard when people do not cooperate with you. You feel like quitting at the end of the day". Says the other. You have to concentrate on your studies as well as completing the duties of being a prefect. Being a prefect is tiring. It is really hard for only one prefect to take care of the entire dorm that is why we have two prefects. You might feel annoyed when they shout at you. But, if you be in their shoes for a day you might understand how painful it is being a prefect. Prefects almost sacrifice their studies to take care of us. Never go against them.







## The Beautiful Voice on the Stage

Nandika Arun - VI C

The second I open my eyes I realized I was on a high platform. I felt all eyes falling on me. As soon as I started to sing I felt like myself. I heard nothing but my voice. When I looked at everyone I saw them swaying their hands and everyone's eyes staring into my soul. They started to sing along with me. I was the happiest person alive but if it wasn't for Lawrence I wouldn't have had this opportunity to be on this stage. My Happy place!



## Nilgiri Hills

P Riya Sre - V B

This is where I live  
It is cold  
It is green  
Guess where?  
The "Nilgiri Hills"

It is rocky  
It is treacherous  
But, it's fun!

We climb up  
We go down  
Though we get tired  
It is fun!



## Our Daily Routine

Kandimalla Mahanya - VII B

I wake up early in the morning  
It is dark with a lot of fog I feel energetic in the morning

It is cold inside our blankets  
Doing yoga in the morning feeling energetic

Going for class  
Teachers are teaching we enjoy in the classes Listening

Going for lunch  
When it is dry lunch Children enjoy Yummy, Yummy

Going for games jumping, running  
And playing our sport  
And concentrating on our games

Coming back  
Having tea peacefully  
With friends chitchatting and enjoying

Matrons are saying  
"Arrange your cupboards  
Polish your shoes make your bed..."

Studying for exams  
Scared Trying to practice again and again

Having dinner peacefully  
Enjoying biryani  
Chitchatting, relaxed

Tired and sleepy  
Good night Go to sleep



## OUR SCHOOL

Nara Gathrisri - VI A

Our School always the best,  
Can it ever be worst?  
What's our School?  
When it isn't cool?

We have so much fun studying and playing  
We might also have fun eating and sleeping  
We have riding which is nice,  
And horses which are bigger than mice.

You'll love it if you come here,  
It might not be near.  
When you do something bad,  
It is pretty much clear,  
You should pull up gear

What's a school without the "NOs"  
It's really true that you'll never be the boss  
You can also play,  
With the clay

When the teacher switches off the light  
You can only sleep in the night.





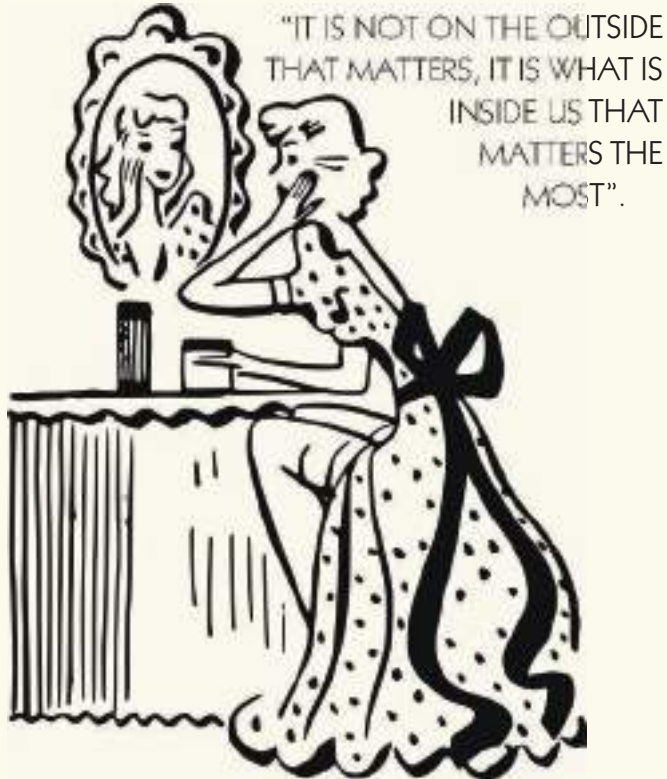


## "Beauty"

Sri Moksha K - V C

"Beauty" people say this mostly after we dress up or put on make up. But what they have to see is what is inside our mind, our behaviour and so much more, this is what the true beauty is. Beauty is also about the way you think about yourself. If you think you are beautiful, you are, but if you think you are ugly no one can stop you from thinking that you are ugly. Beauty is a part of you but inside. Do not think about what others say about you. Nowadays people are having plastic surgery just because someone commented on them. They aren't trying to understand that how they look doesn't matter. I think makeup is not needed.

ALL THIS IS TRUE BEAUTY... from now on let's follow



## NATURE

Nara Gathrisri - VI A

It's good to be in the Nature,  
 You don't need to be mature  
 There is a pleasant sound,  
 You can even feel it on the ground

There are trees in green,  
 There are kids who are keen.  
 The lovely noise of the birds  
 We should be glad there are gods

There are people working  
 There are dogs barking  
 There are rivers flowing  
 There is rain pouring

There are ways,  
 There are bays  
 I wish I lived in a nature reserve,  
 Peacefully with my friends and family.



## My Dorm

Sanvi Pati - VI A

This is the place where I was meant to be born,  
 and of-course this is my dorm  
 people talk so loud,  
 that the whole roof would come down!  
 People might sing,  
 and a few would lose their earrings  
 people laugh a lot,  
 and a few are robots  
 from study to sports,  
 Our dorm can never loose  
 This house is special,  
 It gives me a lots of pleasure







## Seasons

Gulika Sinha - VI A

Seasons are everywhere,  
Wherever you go I will follow you,  
I have different personalities

Summer, where the Sun Shines  
Winter, where the Snowfalls  
Spring, where flowers are happy and they dance,  
Autumn, where trees change their colours and leaves say good  
bye!  
Monsoon, where I cry and children play with my tears!

Seasons come once a year,  
People like and hate some seasons,  
Wherever I go, I wonder whether I make people happy or sad.



## The Highlight of the Day

B Sree Venya Reddy - VII D

One peaceful Friday afternoon after my last class, my friend Rheya and I were walking down the Y- junction road and I thought that my friend was too slow. So I went a little ahead and while I walked I was humming my favourite song while anna told us to stop. He mentioned that there were bees! I only saw a few but when I looked up I saw a whole lot of bees darting towards us! Everyone started running up the hill. At a certain point, my friend and I decided to abandon our bags when it was clear that we were tired. It looked like the bees have built their beehives on a horizontal branch of an extremely tall tree, due to wind the branch was moving and the hive was falling apart.



## Boarders

Saesha Nair - VI C

As I want to go home  
Around the dorms I roam  
Feeling homesick all the time  
I love to rhyme  
I love to write in my diary  
We boarders always fight  
I want to meet my parents soon  
In the nights I watch the moon



## Aravalli Is Awesome

Nilani P - V B



This is where I stay,  
Not very far away  
This is Aravalli  
And I know this is the place for me.

I have two prefects,  
And I don't know who'll be perfect  
I had a very great day,  
And I hope I have one, every day!

We'll have to change very fast  
And that's because of breakfast  
We are always free,  
Before and after tea.

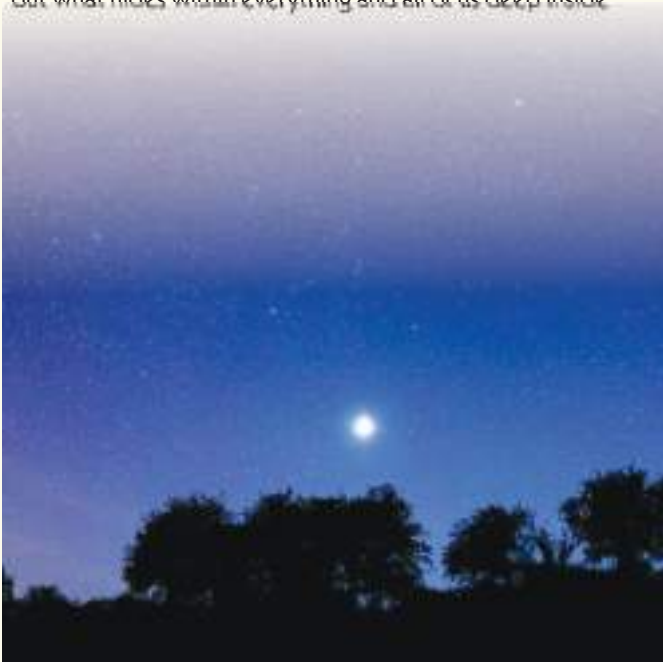
We settle down on our beds,  
Not before the sun sets  
And I think Aravalli is the best  
And I don't know about the rest





**Keosha Sawlani - IX C**

What is beauty? We do not know yet  
 Who knew that the same clouds that part on us  
 Are the some clouds that look like pretty pictures in the sky  
 Who knew those houses that we see  
 Could also look like diamonds  
 those same teachers  
 that maybe? Just may we are scared of  
 could make us feel like we are home again  
 and those "friends" we never talk is  
 they felt like family that day  
 maybe we have been looking at it the wrong way  
 then the sun finally came up  
 and the wind blew hard  
 lets just say that day I realized  
 its not always whats on the outside  
 but what hides within everything and all of us deep inside



**Moon Walk**  
**S.S.Krtvika - IX B**

Walking through wind  
 Changes the sin  
 Seeing the stars shine  
 as I smile  
 as the stars move I  
 Let go my worries, pain, and feelings  
 The moon bright as a sun and  
 Beautiful as my thoughts melt looking at it  
 As the stars twinkle, my face brightens up  
 It was beautiful lying under sky, under the moon and  
 It was nothing but beauty



**That's when I wake up**  
**Urvi Tanna - IX A**

That's when I wake up  
 Was it all a dream?  
 was everything lie?  
 What did it all mean?  
 Feels like I wanna bie

Could it all come towtl?  
 the fear of losing.  
 Everything in a crew.  
 The fear of choosing.  
 Between the two.

Can I wake up from the dream,  
 And start with a new beam?







## Gold

L. Soundharam - IX D

When my mother had me,  
She dreamed of golden rain,  
Wherever the rain goes, things turn into gold  
I could not do anything,  
I met you in the golden time,  
I find myself starting to shine,  
At first I was gold  
I looked around after a while,  
Everything turned into gold  
I don't want to lose this



## Unknown Roads

Rajvi Banik - IX C

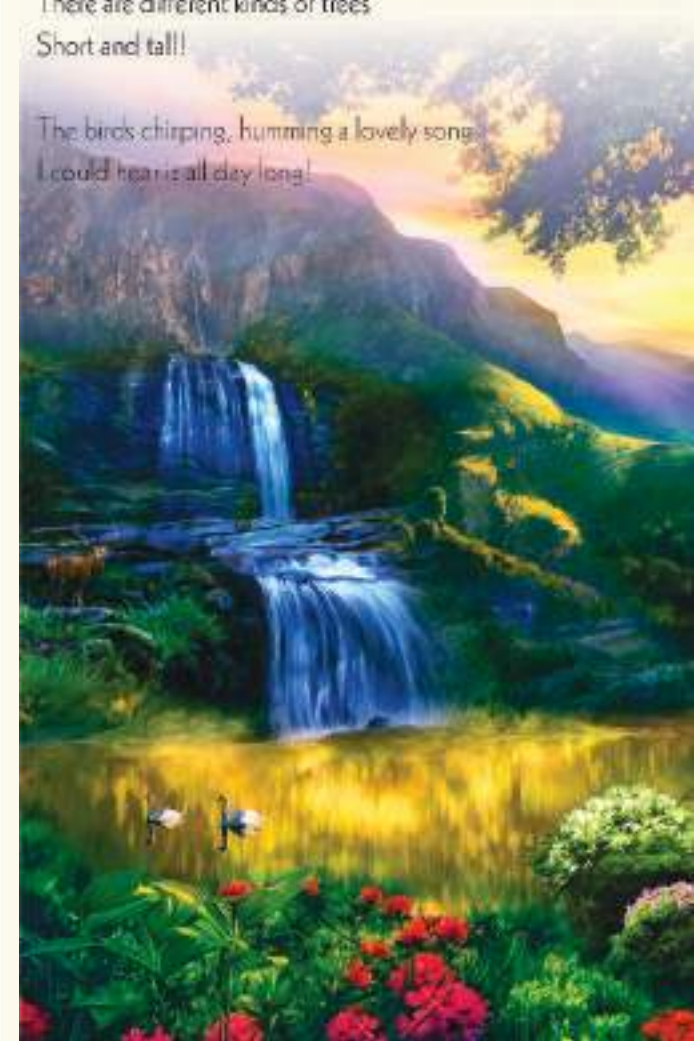
Travelling becomes your comfort zone.  
When you feel like home on the strangest roads  
  
Every place carries its own story.  
Being in your car with your favorite music is the greatest feeling.  
  
Nothing to care for, no anxiety on your mobile phone.  
A conversation with a stranger may alter your mind.  
The world is too big to unravel all its mystery.  
From hidden castles to lost stories,  
Living your life is the best thing.



## Nature

Aliya Sahu - VI A

I love sitting in the sun  
Play, jump, run and have fun!  
  
The creeping and crawling small creatures  
Oh, now I love the beauty of nature!  
  
During autumn, the leaves fall  
There are different kinds of trees  
Short and tall!  
  
The birds chirping, humming a lovely song  
I could hear it all day long!







## Growing up

Shivika Aiyappa - VIII C

When you are a child  
You want so much  
You want to be tall  
You want to grow up

You want to see the world  
You don't want to be called  
A girl or lad  
Only a women or a man

You want to grow up,  
As fast as you can  
You want to act like  
Your mom or dad

Now you are not a child  
You have so much  
You are so tall and  
also grown up

You have seen the world  
You are not called  
A girl or lad  
Only a woman or man

You wish to go back, whenever you can  
You want to drop the act  
and go back to being 10 years old  
with your mom and your dad



## VI A

Ira Singh - VI A

This is my place  
Full of fools  
Sometimes we need tools  
Cause' the nails are loose

From projects to Quotes  
We have every chart  
There are people smart  
Who answer questions fast?

Yashniel's work is never complete  
That's why he shifts his desk  
Every first class

You would get instant heart attack  
If you hear yuvraj sneeze  
And Jonathan's squeaky scream

Ma'am keeps reminding Krishav  
Where to keep his bag  
Since nothing gets in his head  
You'll never get out  
Cause' then you'll realize  
This is where I truly belong



## Guitar

T Saanvi Rao - VII B



It fills my heart with joy  
When the music rings in my ears  
It stops all my fears  
And takes away my fears

I play it with or without my peers  
It just makes my day happier  
I wish it will be my career

To me, it's a treasure  
Which gives me pleasure  
Without it I'll be a flower with no petals  
Or an athlete with no medals.





## October

Rajvi Banik - IX C

Yellow autumn days read my mind,  
The calm breeze flew with the last glass of wine.

The sky had an unusual calmness,  
The only visible thing was the sun's brightness.

The leaves covered the Earth, gradually,  
All I could say that it was nature's mystery.  
My red scarf held onto me like a last breath,  
The book in my hand led me to the last page.

Soon the clouds took over the sky,  
The smell of wood freed my mind  
As the smell of moist wood started wearing off,  
I whispered to myself that I love this view.



## Me and My Mon

Ira Singh - VI A

People say we look like twins  
And that's a win- win

Our taste is the same from  
Food to cloths, no offence  
Achi, Fanta orange will not go in my room!

Watching action movies and playing memory is definitely  
Our jam and that's what we do in the evening time

My mom's more of a slow song person and  
I don't like that but I love her to the moon and back!



## The day bleeds into night fall

Keosha Sawlani - IX C

I always looked outside my window  
hoping I could see the stars  
maybe even heal the scars  
then we went on a walk  
with our lips on lock  
we were sitting there looking at the moon  
the time went by so soon  
maybe we were silent  
but the silence was loud enough  
ad at that moment we realized  
that our lives were not that tough







## Climate Change - No Amount Said Is Enough

Meher Bagri - X B

Within the past two centuries, industrialization, unprecedented rise in the population, economic growth, urbanization, deforestation, and pollution have wrought extraordinary changes on the land, the oceans and the atmosphere of our planet. This has led to climate change at levels we have never seen before. Climate change's consequences are multiple, complex, and diverse with an array of repercussions felt at differing degrees across different parts of the planet.

Every corner of the Earth is being affected by climate change. The atmosphere, oceans and land, are all inflicted with the damage caused by us! A damage that cannot be undone. As methods of assessing climate change have improved, a scientific consensus has emerged that the climate crisis is primarily caused by human activity.

The countries that have contributed most to climate change are the ones with the least consequences. Instead, in recent years, those contributing the least emissions, the smaller and weaker countries are the ones getting hit by climate change the hardest. Many of these nations are vulnerable to rising seas, stronger storms and deadly heat waves.

Today, if we do not take steps to reduce the carbon footprint, well then, we should be worried about what comes next, as warm weather, and chilling rainfall will be the least of our worries. After all, you reap what you sow. We need to work together on a personal, day-to-day basis to try and put a halt to climate change which is on its way to ravage our daily lives. If we fail to do so, the consequences can be unimaginable.



## Four Golden Concepts

Krishna Agrawal - XI C

Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha are the four golden concepts enshrined in our philosophy to lead a good life here in this world and in the world hereafter. The first three are the ways and means and the last one is the end result. Dharma refers to upholding virtuous values such as speaking the truth always and treading the path of righteousness. The Upanishad says Satyam Vada, Dharman chara – speak the truth and live in a pious way. Artha refers to earning in a righteous manner to sustain a good life. Karma refers to the attachment to legitimate desires. It is a comprehensive term.

Elders say a person should lead his life like a pearl of water on a lotus leaf. Impliedly, a person should neither get stuck with much of attachments to worldly desires nor should he or she run away from the responsibilities of life.



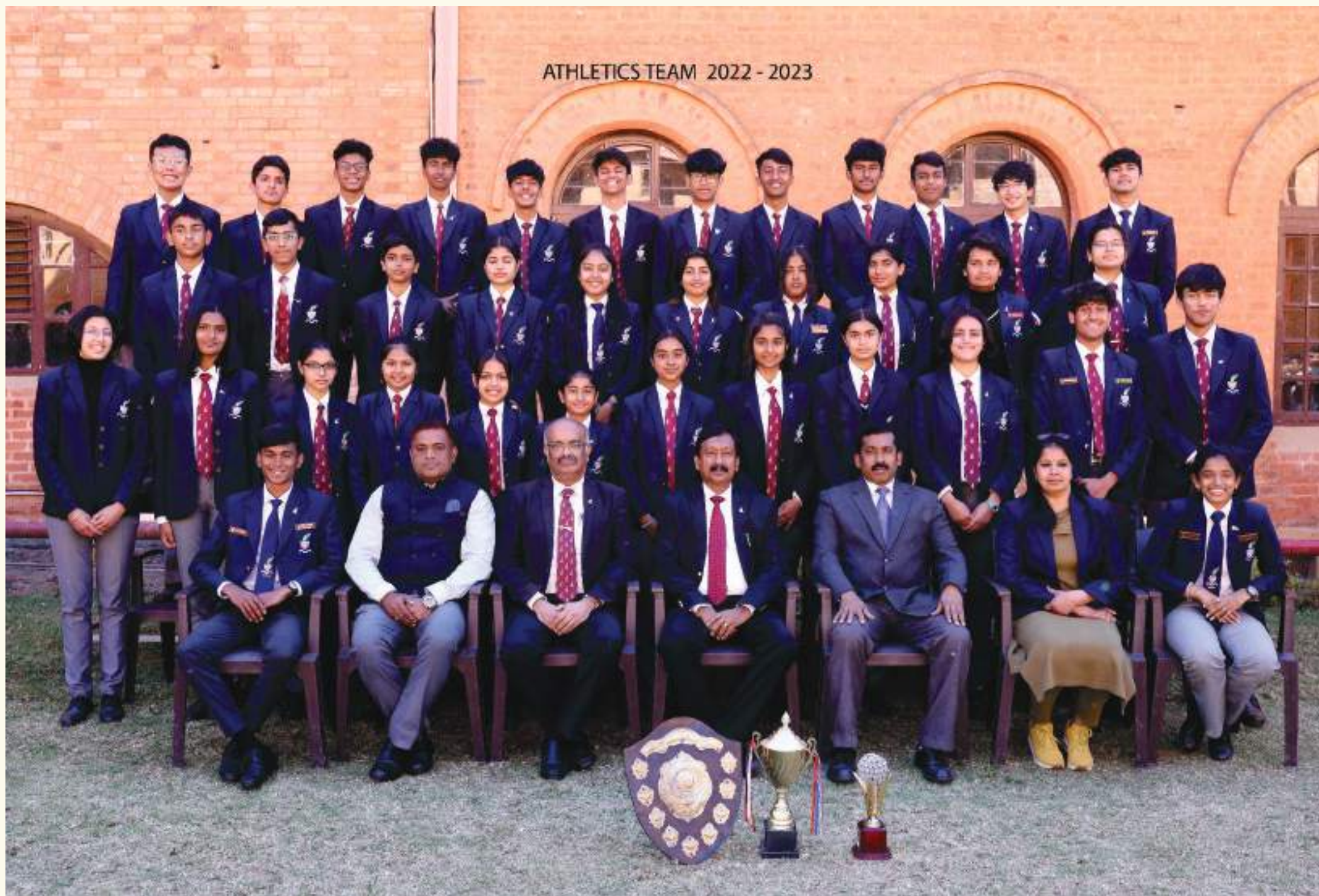


# |Sports





ATHLETICS TEAM 2022 - 2023





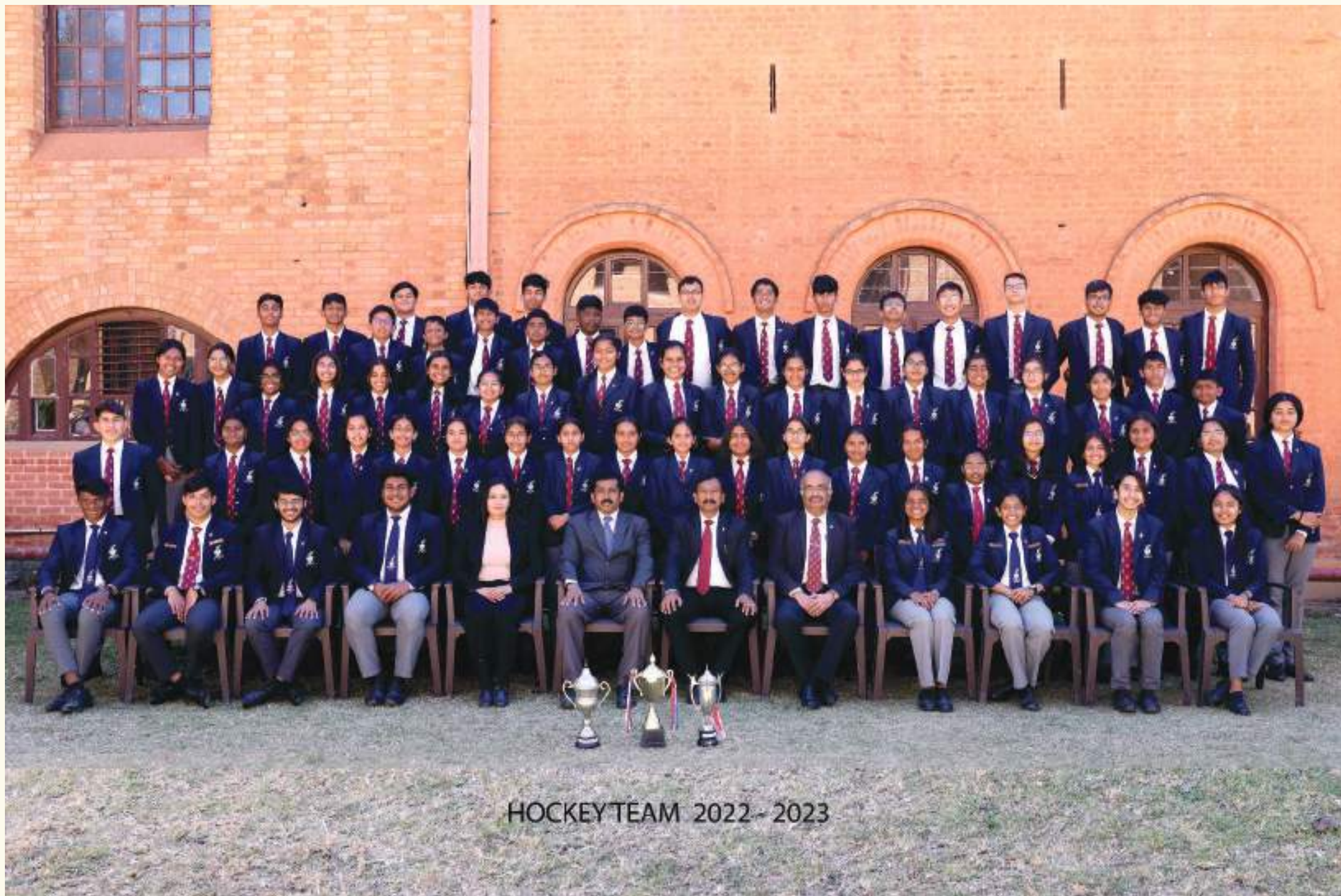
## Report

After the reopening of the School for the year 2022-23 more than 450 students represented our School at various IPSC, State, CBSE, District, Inter school and National tournaments for Football, Hockey, Tennis, Cricket , Squash, Archery, Athletics, Badminton and Basketball.

1. Our Boys Basketball team represented the Nilgiris at the Inter District Tournament at Coimbatore from 29th July to 1st August 2022.
2. Our Badminton boys and girls won 20 titles in the District Badminton Tournament conducted by the NDBA from 25th to 27 August in Ooty.
3. Aaishmika Dinkar of Class 11 clinched 4 gold medals at the State Archery Championship from 14th to 22nd October-2022.
4. Three of our Football Junior Division boys got selected for the SGFI to represent the IPSC at the School Nationals.
5. To show our solidarity with the Fit India Freedom Run 3.0, The Lawrence School, Lovedale gave an opportunity to all students to be part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav from 14th to 21st October 2022.
6. We successfully completed the Annual Athletic Meet for the year 2022-23 on 21-10-22. The seven day-long heats and competition made our students compete in great spirit. Nine records were broken. The overall championship was secured by Nilgiri House.









7. Our Squash U-12 boys team secured runner up position at IPSC squash tournament organized by Mayo college from 2nd to 7th October.

8. Our 5 boys and 6 girls represented Nilgiri district in the U-13 Inter district Basketball tournament conducted by State Basketball Association at Trichy from 10th to 13th October-22.

9. The IPSC under-17 Girls Basketball tournament was held at the Mayo College Girls School, Ajmer from 26th to 30th October -22. We secured the second runner up position. Anaya Dhar was adjudged 'outstanding player' of the tournament. Adya Sahu of class 6 was adjudged the 'most promising player' in the IPSC under 14 Girls Basketball tournament held at YPS Mohali

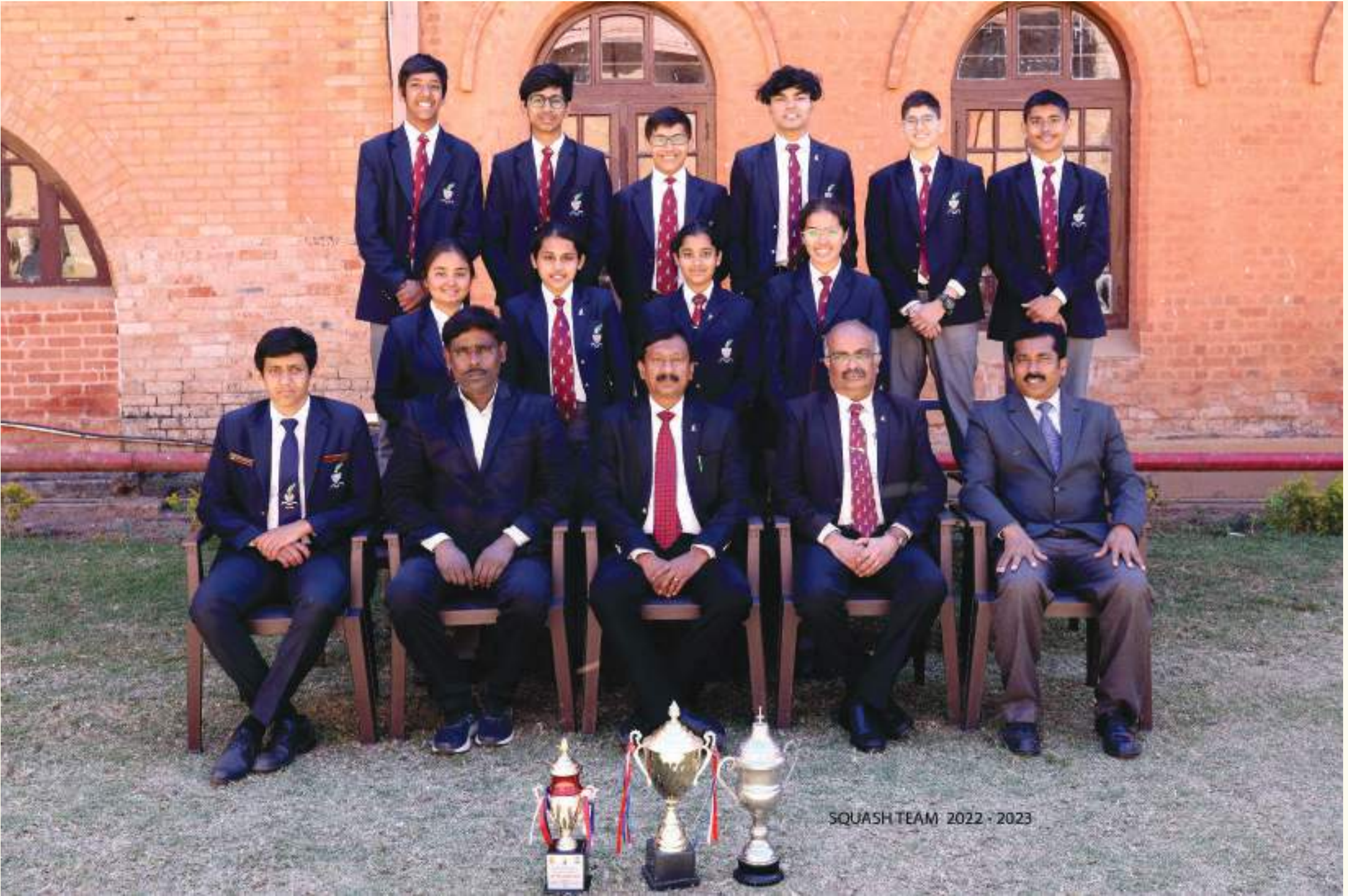
10. U-19 Hockey girls team reached semifinal at the IPSC Hockey tournament conducted by MGD Jaipur 27th to 30th of September.

11. Our U-19 Boys won the District Basketball tournament conducted by Nilgiri district Basketball association from 28th to 30th of September. Girls team won the runner up position. Anaya awarded with the promising player of the tournament. Rahul Joseph adjudged as the best player of the tournament.

12. Our Badminton Boys' teams took part in the IPSC Badminton Tournament 2022, which was held at the BK Birla centre for education, Pune from 29th October to 2nd November, 2022. The U-17 Boys won the Runner up position and U-19 Boys secured 2nd Runner up position. 4 boys got selected for the SGFI to represent IPSC at School Nationals.









13. Our Tennis Boys' & Girls' teams took part in the Inter school Tennis tournament 2022, which was held at our school from 7th to 9th November 2022. Lawrence boys team emerged as winners defeating GSIS, LMS, Hebron & SJC. Lawrence Girls team secured Runner up position.

14. Our Basketball Boys' team took part in the Inter School Basketball tournament which was held at GSIS from 3rd to 5th November, 2022.

Lawrence U-17 Boys emerged as winners defeating GSIS  
Lawrence U-14 Boys team secured Runner up position  
Rahul Joseph was adjudged as 'the best player' of the tournament

Aryan Singh Sirkarwar received the award for Promising Player of the Tournament.

15. Lawrence Basketball Girls team took part the Inter School Basketball tournament which was held at LMS, Ketti from 10th to 11th November, 2022. Lawrence U-14 & U-17 Girls emerged as winners Juhi and Anaya were adjudged as the best players of the tournament.

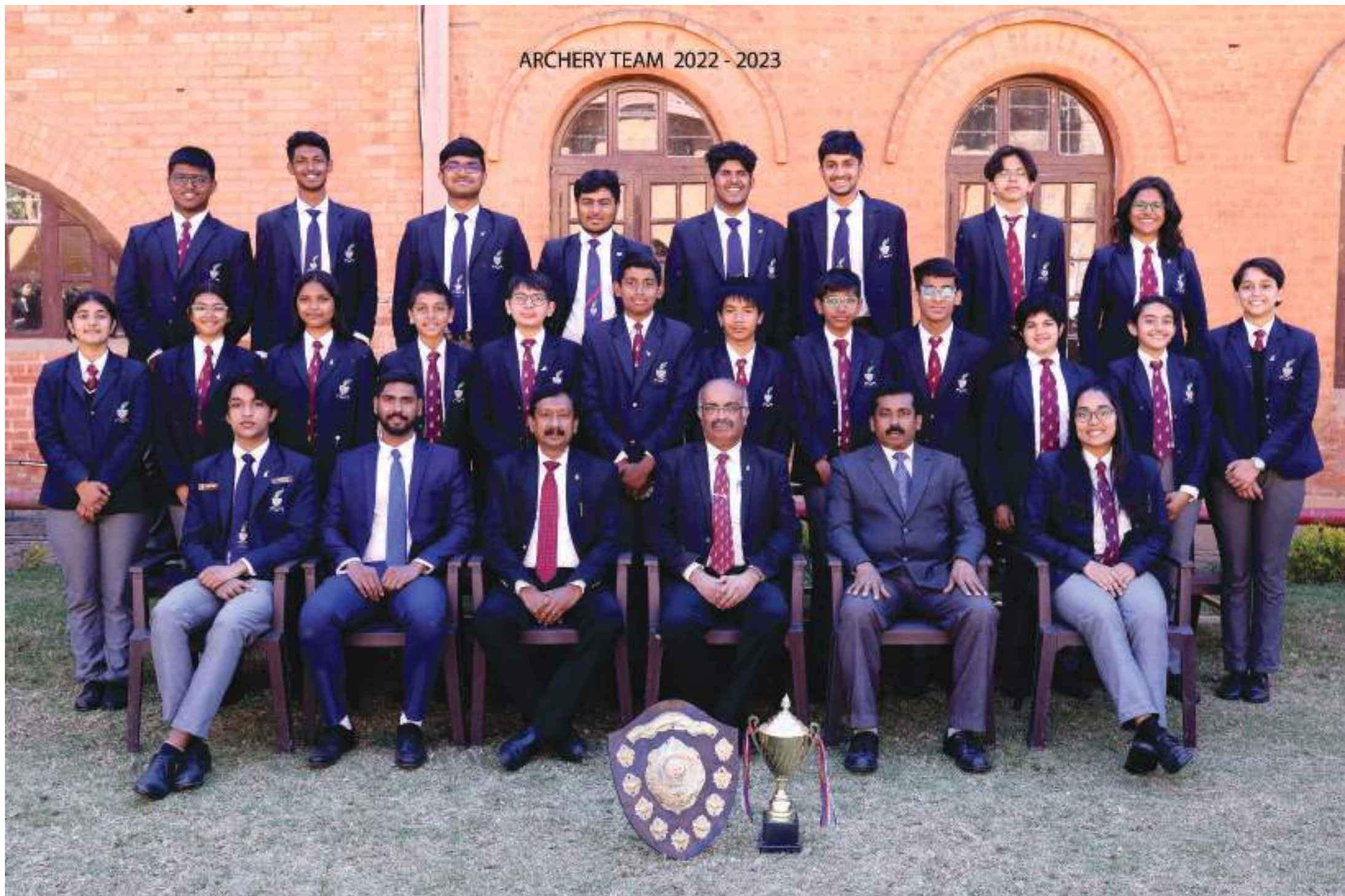
16. Our Nilgiri district U-13 Boys Basketball team represented by 5 Lawrence school players qualified to quarter final of the state Basketball championship held at Tanjavur.

17. IPSC Athletics was held at Punjab Public School, Nabha from 31st Oct to 2nd Nov 22. Advyathaa K K secured the individual championship. Our boys team won 2 Gold(Relay), 1 Silver & 1 Bronze. (400m Hurdles Gold- Sanjith Kumar, 400m Gold-Nanjappa 4X 100m Relay Silver-Gokul, Nithin Surya, Nanjappa & Rohan Dhruv, 4X400m Relay Bronze-Nanjappa, Sanjith Kumar, Gokul, Rohan Dhruv)





ARCHERY TEAM 2022 - 2023





The Lawrence School, Lovedale Girls' team secured the **SECOND** position in the medal tally with 4Gold & 1 Silver. Advyathaa K K secured Gold in triple Jump, High jump and 400mts Hurdles. 4x400m Relay silver won by Advyathaa K K, Ahaana Harsh Gupta, Adhya Aren, Gauri Chabra. 4x100m Relay silver won by A S Rinu, Yaara Firdous, Ahana Gupta, Gauri Chabra.



18. Hockey Girls teams took part in the Inter School Hockey tournament which was held at Hebron school Ooty from 14th to 19th November,2022.  
Lawrence U-14 & U-19 Girls emerged as winners.



19. 5 boys from junior school played for the U-14 Nilgiri district Cricket team in TNCA Tournament which was held at Villupuram District from 24th to 30th November.

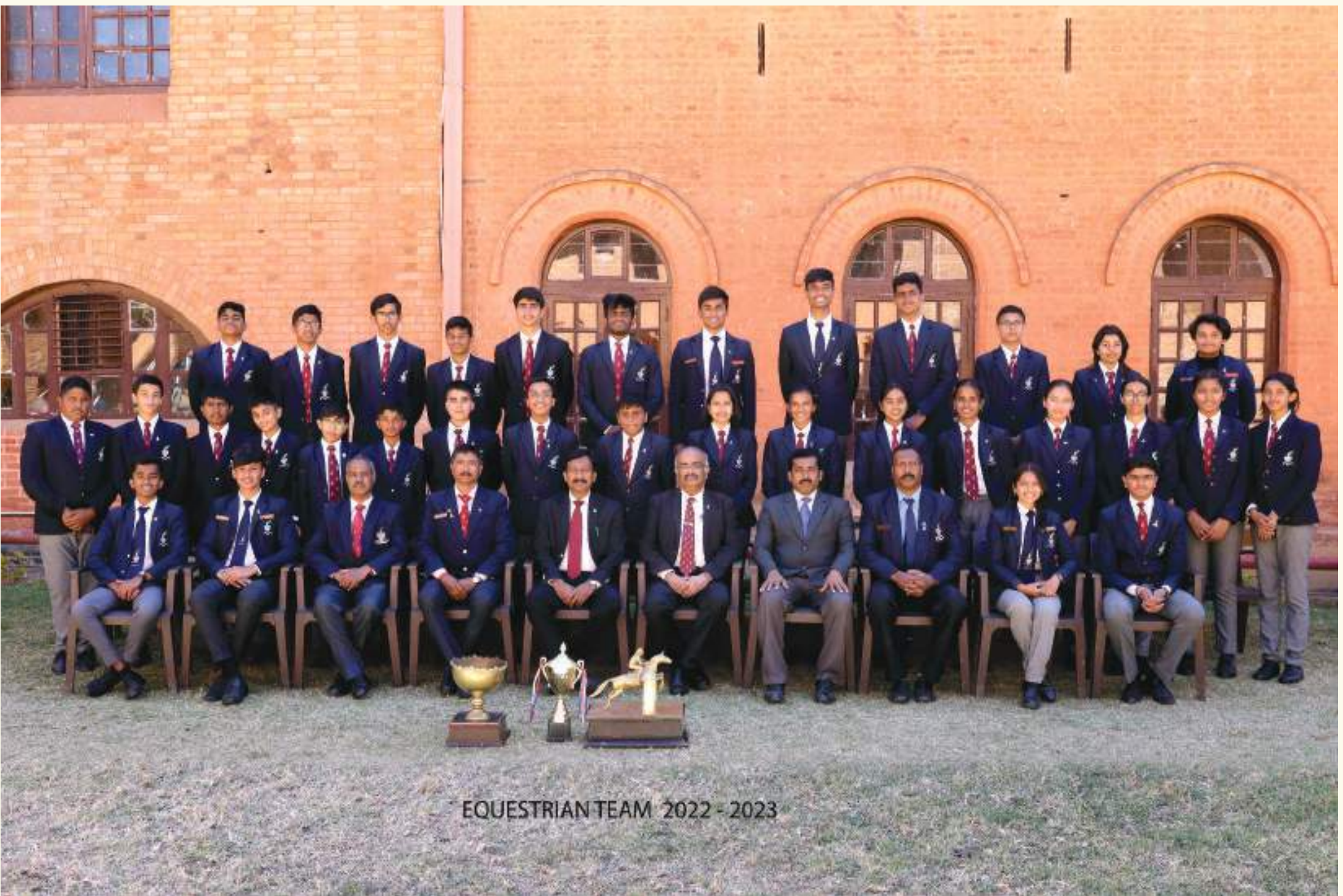
20. Our Archers took part at CBSE South Zone Archery championship hosted by DPS, Nagarkul, Hyderabad from 1st to 5th December 2022. Our U-17 & 19 boys secured Silver in team events and in Individual championship, Under 19 compound girls Aishmika won a Gold. Totally 8 students selected to represent National CBSE tournament.



21. Our Archery boys & girls teams took part in the CBSE National tournament 2022, which was held at Vidhya Niketan School, Panchagani from 28th to 31st December,2022. Aishmika Dinkar of class 11 won Gold.

22. Our girls team took part in the IPSC Squash tournament for girls held at Rajmata Krishna Kumari Girls' Public School, Jodhpur from 6th to 9th December-22.







Results are as follows-

U-14 secured 3rd place in the Team championship Hiranya won 3rd place in this the IPSC Squash (individual) championship 2022.

SIA Kaul Pandita won the IPSC Squash (individual) championship 2022



23. Our boys, Shaurya.N and Vidhushen got selected from the Zonal level to State for a talent scout selection trials for Bowlers conducted by Tamil Nadu Cricket Association from 11th to 12th February- 23 at SNR college of engineering, Coimbatore.

24. Our boys & girls Hockey teams participated in the CM Trophy Hockey Tournament at Aringar Anna Govt Hr.Sec School, Coonoor from 13.02.2023 to 14.02.2023 The following are the results.

Girls under 19 –Winners, Under 19 Boys –Runner-UP

25. Our boys & girls Basketball teams took part in the CMS Trophy Basketball tournament conducted by SDAT at our school from 8th to 9th February 2023.

Girls emerged winners and the Boys Runners Up



26. Lawrence boys & girls Badminton teams participated in the CM Trophy Badminton Tournament at Anna Stadium, Ooty, from 08.02.2023 to 09.02.2023 and had a clean sweep we secured 8 titles

Boys singles winners –John Jacob Philip

Boys singles runners –Tarun SB

Boys singles bronze –Namith Puttachi

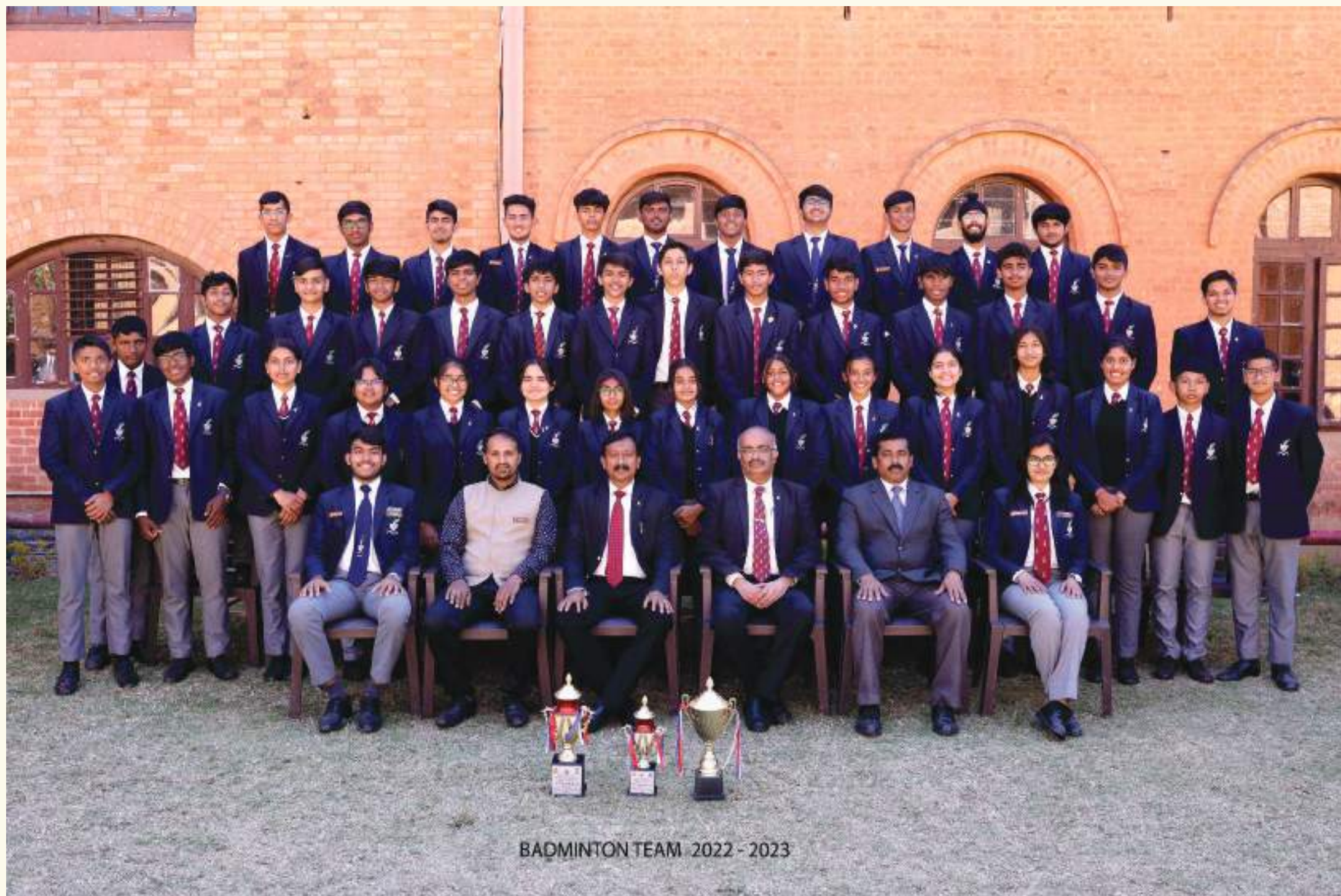
Boys doubles winners-John & Tarun

Girls singles winners –Nikita Rao

Girls singles bronze –Asmi Mital









Girls doubles winners-Asmi Mital & Nikita Rao

Girls doubles bronze-Akanksha Srivastav

27. Lawrence Boys Cricket team won the title at the CM'S Trophy Cricket tournament conducted by SDAT at our school from 13th to 15th February 2023.

28. Lawrence boys & girls Hockey teams performed extremely well in the CM Trophy Hockey Tournament at Aringar Anna Govt Hr. Sec School Coonoor from 13.02.2023 to 14.02.2023. Our Girls team won the championship and boys secured Runners up position.

29. The Lawrence boys & girls Basketball team showed their dominance at the CM'S Trophy Basketball tournament conducted by SDAT at our school from 8th to 9th February 2023 by securing two titles. Our Girls' team won the championship and the boys secured the Runner up position.

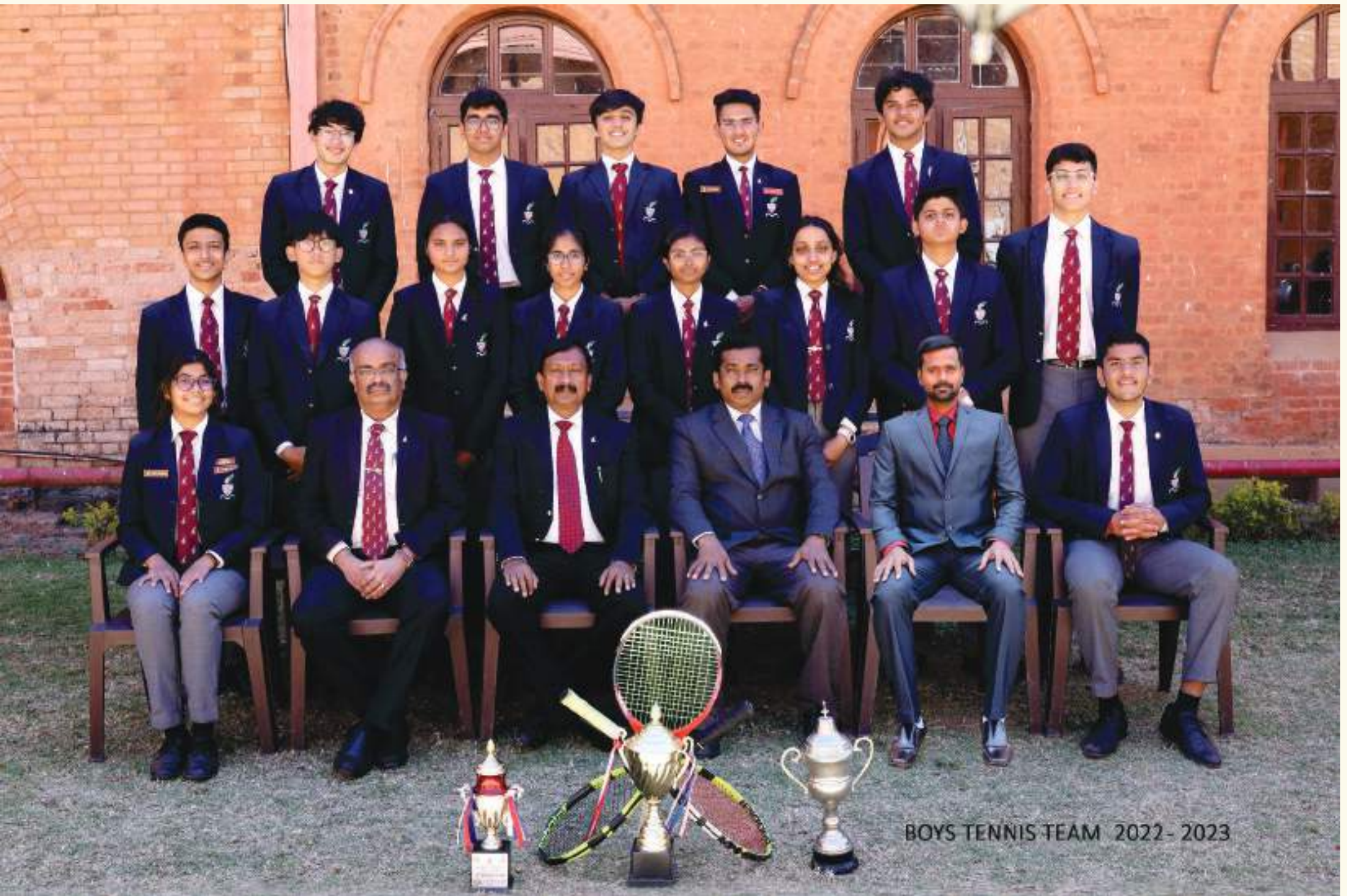
30. Our U-13 Boys Cricket team took part in the Nilgiri Inter school Cricket tournament conducted by NDCA . Team won the final defeating the host school GSIS. Final was held at GSIS on 24-3-23.

The Best All-Rounder award for u-14 Boys was won by Avikshit Varma & the award for the Century maker in U-19 Boys Ayush P Gowda. Nitin Ishan took 5 Wickets.

31. The Inter-House competitions are held to give more opportunities for students and to boost the house spirit. To this end, various Inter-House competitions were conducted in Football, Hockey, Tennis, Squash, Archery, Badminton and Basketball during the month of February and March.









# |The Athletics Meet and a Fresh Start

Two years and a pandemic later, we were finally back in top flats with all four flags of all four Houses unfurled in the spirit of sportsmanship and unsparing competition hanging in the air and the songs of all four Houses still ringing in our ears. It was as if someone had finally breathed life back into School.

The Athletics Meet helped us bestow upon every hardworking athlete the recognition and appreciation they deserved. It helped us understand what true sportsmanship was all about and what it is like to be a part of something bigger than yourself and to work towards a common goal as a team. Regardless of who wins or loses this age-old tradition is the best excuse for us to be able to unite the entire School. We laughed, we ran, we fell, we cheered, we painted each other's faces and spent hours making extremely long charts but at the end of the day, all barriers were blurred, even those of the Houses.

After 2 long years, a sense of normalcy was finally restored and that was all that really mattered. On the evening of the Athletics Meet 2022, the Sun set knowing that the next day was going to be a fresh start full of opportunity. The Athletics Meet was just the beginning, since then our students have represented our school at various events held all the way from an inter-school level to an IPSC and national level. We've emerged from every competition as we always have, with our heads held high and chests filled with pride, knowing that there is more to come.

**Veeksha K**  
**XB**





# |OLs Speak





A man with glasses and a dark jacket stands on a balcony with a green metal railing, overlooking a vast, hazy valley under a clear blue sky. The valley features winding roads and distant hills. The text of the poem is overlaid on the right side of the image.

## A Lifetime in a Day

My eyes blinked open  
My day  
Fuzzy first light and thoughts  
Begin their crave  
My senses slowly filled  
As I get born today

A lifetime to be lived  
In a day  
Before my eyes quiver  
And shut away  
All I thought I controlled  
Now dead to me again

That lifetime passed in a blink  
Of a day  
A hundred thousand heartbeats  
Kept me in life's fray  
As I drank from life's well, did I give back  
Enough, its cost to defray  
And get to taste a lifetime, another day

My eyes grow heavy after work  
And play  
Thoughts of the senseless things I did  
Fades away  
While that of a warm smile received  
In my mind plays  
As my senses die, I faintly wonder  
Was mine a good life, today.

- Johnny John OL '83



## | On Sir Henry Montgomery Lawrence





## Introduction:

I have been doing extensive research on Sir Henry Lawrence and for now I have put together a few paragraphs of Sir Henry's last days. Let me first though, clear many doubts that obtain in the minds of Lawrencians new and old.

Lawrence was not part of the British Army and was never a King's Commissioned Officer. His so-called Army Rank was that given to him by the East India Company and that too by the Bengal Presidency of that Company. He was a Revenue Surveyor most of his life. Unlike landscape surveying, revenue surveying meant surveying the domain over which the East India Company held power with a view to exacting as much in taxation as possible using whatever means were required, including one or all of torture, jailing and confiscation. All revenues exacted were remitted to the East India Company that in turn made distributions to its shareholders and paid company expenses such as salaries to employees. Lawrence was one such salaried employee.

Let me clear the confusion as to whether Lawrence was a Brigadier General or a Major General. He was a Brigadier General. Most armies do not even regard a Brigadier as a General. Next in ranking to a Brigadier comes a Major General, followed by Lieutenant General and then General. Lawrence's ranking as a Brigadier General was confirmed on 14 May 1857. The ranking wasn't given for any military achievement but Lawrence himself applied for this rank to Governor-General Canning so that he, Lawrence, could take full control over both Civil and Military matters in Oudh which had recently been annexed by the East India Company. The ranking lasted a grand total of 51 days up to and including 4 July when Lawrence perished at 8 am. Prior to 14 May 1857, Lawrence was a Colonel.

Let me also make it clear that the Knighthood awarded to Sir Henry was for civilian services and not for any military matter. See Insignia attached.

The Chief Guest for Founders 1950, Lt. General Shri Rajendrasinhji, ranked above Lawrence and yet was paying tribute to him, the Chief Guest of 1983, Field Marshall Manekshaw actually commented that he ranked higher. A housemate, Major General Satish Nair also ranked above Lawrence as have many Old Lawrencians! One who comes to mind is Admiral Raja Menon.

It is interesting to note that when Manekshaw was fighting as part of the British Army in Burma, he took 9 bullets. When Lawrence was on an expedition in Burma, he was rendered invalid by a mosquito bite! Henry, then aged 18, contracted Arakan Fever (a form of Malaria) and remained in poor health for the remainder of his life. He was in no position to lead a military campaign from the front.

## All that said, here is what happened:

On the night of 29 June, Lawrence had come under severe pressure to 'attack from the front' from one of his subordinates, an evil character called Gubbins who was anyway disgruntled as he felt that Lawrence had been awarded the post of Chief Commissionaire of Oudh that was rightfully his, Gubbins'. Sadly, Lawrence succumbed to this pressure.

The following morning, 30 June with the sun already high, his troops already tired, and with no food in their stomachs, Henry set off with a force of 300 British

soldiers, 320 native infantry, some Sikh cavalry, and nine guns, four of which were manned by native artillerymen. Henry was 51 years old, suffering terribly from Malaria, couldn't stand the heat, was totally unfit, and had no recent experience going into battle, leading from the front. Really, he should have left such matters to professional soldiers rather than civilians like himself. No professional soldier would have led such a hungry, tired, ill-prepared force into battle.

After crossing the bridge at the Kukrail river, a halt was called, and Henry went forward to reconnoiter. He had already signaled for a withdrawal, when he saw what a weak advance guard was moving towards him. He decided to attack and found himself engaged with the full rebel force of five and a half thousands of foot, eight hundred horse, and more than a dozen guns. The right wing of the rebel force outflanked the British by moving through a reconnoitered wood and brought heavy fire to bear on them while the main body pressed their frontal attack.

The little column came under accurate artillery fire as it approached Chinhut, and although Lawrence's guns replied, with the 8-inch Howitzer making very good practice, they could not check a force that outnumbered them perhaps 10 to one. Nephew John Lawrence, riding with the volunteer cavalry that day, saw how:

It was one mass of moving men, regiment after regiment of the insurgents poured steadily towards us, the flanks covered with a foam of skirmishers, the light puffs of smoke from their muskets floating from every ravine and bunch of grass to our front. As to the mass of troops, they came on in quarter-distance columns, their standards waving in our



faces, and everything performed as steadily as possible. A field day or parade could not have been better.

The mutineers were doing exactly what would have been expected of them if their officers had been British, coming on quickly in columns and not getting bogged down in a firefight. Lawrence's Indian manned guns overturned (by design or accident) trying to get across the road embankment; the 32nd lost its commanding officer and about a third of its men, and many of the loyal seepoys made off. The howitzer had to be abandoned, and the column straggled back towards Lucknow: had it not been for a brave charge by the volunteer horse most would have been killed. The action at Chinhut cost Lawrence 365 casualties, almost half of them British: as no quarter was given, the number of dead, including 118 Europeans was depressingly high.

Sir Henry's venture to take the 'enemy' head-on led to his being routed, and militarily, was a disaster. Sir Henry retreated to the Residency, and this is how Colonel Wilson describes what happened there:

'During the first day (July 1), the enemy threw an eight-inch shell from the howitzer they had captured from us, into the room in which Sir Henry and Couper were sitting. It burst between them, and close to both, but without injury to either. We now urged Sir Henry to leave the Residency and go elsewhere, or at least go down below into the lower storey. This, however, he then declined to do, as he laughingly said that he did not believe the enemy had had

an artilleryman good enough to put another shell into that small room.' It was rather unwise of Sir Henry to underestimate the 'enemy'.

Early in the morning of 2 July, Henry, accompanied by his nephew George, inspected the posts and batteries of the compound, and returned to Henry's room in an upper storey of the Residency at about 8 o'clock. In early June he had asked Inglis to get him a large room or two smaller rooms for himself and several other people in a place 'in a central position', where 'I shall not be very hot'. It was important for him, he wrote 'to be as cool as possible as I feel the heat greatly'. Whether this was a room supplied by Inglis or not, Henry was surely occupying a billet so exposed to enemy fire in order to catch whatever cooling air might waft over the beleaguered position. I have attached images of the tower where Sir Henry was located on the top floor, both, before and after it was shelled. Any military man would have known how unwise it was to occupy such a vulnerable location.

Henry flopped down on his bed without removing his clothes, and George lay down on his bed a few feet away. Lawrence asked Captain Wilson, who was attending Henry in the room, to write a memorandum on the issuing of rations. As Wilson left, he reminded Henry of his promise to move to a safer room downstairs. Henry told him he wanted to rest a couple of hours before having his belongings moved. Half an hour later Wilson returned and read out his memorandum as he stood between the beds, with his knee resting on the one occupied by Henry. Henry, Wilson wrote, was in the process of explaining

what he wished altered, when the fatal shot came. A sheet of flame, a terrific report, a shock and dense darkness is all that I can describe. I fell down on the floor and perhaps for a few seconds was quite stunned. I then got up but could see nothing for the smoke or dust. Neither Sir Henry or his nephew made any noise, and in great alarm I called out, 'Sir Henry, are you hurt?' Twice I thus called and without any answer, the third time he said in a low tone, 'I am killed'.

Henry suffered greatly in the remaining time before his death. He was given laudanum and chloroform, and, in his last hours, according to Mrs Harris, great amounts of champagne and arrowroot. 'His screams were so terrible', she recounted, that I think the sound will never leave my ears.'

Throughout 3 July, he joined in prayers with the chaplain, but spoke out intermittently, asking at least once that the Lawrence Asylum be remembered. At 8 am on the morning of 4 July, he died quietly.

- Jitu Savani, OL 68





## Adrift

Languid breeze on peaceful waters  
Stirring up the gentle sea  
A bottle full of carefree laughter  
Floats on by unpretentiously

Crystal glints in daylight rays  
Moonlight peeks through bobbing glass  
The tumble of the playful waves  
Adrift, above the deep

Each day it sought a shore of sand  
No rescue came its way  
It's story changed a hundred hands  
But none could hold its sway

Adrift it journeys to world's known end  
With cargo of life's treasures  
Waiting for what's 'round the bend  
Is it Love beyond all measure?

Each breaking dawn it travelled on  
What did it have to lose?  
For in its wake were tender waves  
Of memories 'neath the moon

Of course it thought of days gone by  
Of expectations, hurt and lies  
Of joyous times of wine and dine  
Of silent moments in low times

But yonder it must seek a shore  
To lay down all that's come along

To put to rest a heavy heart  
To look ahead and forget not

That every bump along the way  
Is followed by a brand new day  
That all you love is here stay  
As much as you allow it

These tides will carry it along  
And come to rest when all is gone  
Adrift for now in endless sea  
But then, that's life's mystery!

- Mrinalini Kutti, Nalini '97





## | 25th Reunion: Reminiscences of a Headmaster



My formative years at the Lawrence School, Lovedale taught me an important lesson in leadership: it doesn't matter which profession you choose to pursue, which company you work for, how quickly you gain career recognition, or even how much money you make; what ultimately matters is the impact you have on society and the number of lives you touch.

Nobody embodied this idealistic principle more than Mr Dev Lahiri – the longest tenured Headmaster at Lovedale in the last three decades - who passed away in 2019.

A graduate of St Stephens College, Mr Lahiri won a Rhodes Scholarship to attend Oxford. After graduating from college, he landed himself a prized job at India's largest multinational company. The job afforded him an attractive salary, prestige and a chance to travel the world. While selling soaps may have given his ambitious colleagues a thrill, it did little to quench Mr. Lahiri's thirst for societal impact. So he quit his job within two months, giving it all up to become a school teacher.

If there was any concern that Mr Lahiri was a wandering

idealist, such doubts were quickly laid to rest when he arrived as the Headmaster of Lovedale in 1991. Mr Lahiri surmounted one deep rooted challenge after another – from weeding out rampant bullying to eradicating various acts of unimaginable and indescribable indiscipline - to leave the school in the year 2000 in a much better position than he found it in. Current students at Lovedale need to appreciate that they are sitting in the shade today because of a tree which was planted a couple of decades ago. Make no mistake about who planted those saplings.



Being a great leader means you cannot please everybody all the time, and on occasion, Mr Lahiri's leadership style rubbed some people the wrong way.

During one of the entertainment performances at Founders Day, for example, a few parents were talking to each other even as the show was in progress. During the intermission, Mr Lahiri picked up the microphone and appealed to the audience to respect the hard work put in by the students and suggested that they excuse themselves if they wished to talk. The murmuring continued. Ten minutes later, Mr Lahiri leapt out of his seat but this time he didn't need a microphone: he admonished the audience (comprising mostly parents) for being insensitive and threatened to call off the program if the disturbances continued. Not a pin drop could be heard for the remainder of the show.

As Mr Lahiri would learn, students and parents cannot be held to the same high standard of discipline, paradoxical as this may sound.

Like many other outspoken leaders, Mr Lahiri would sometimes come to regret his speech (but never his silence as I would playfully remind him). This mattered little to him, however. He was clear that many irresponsible things in the world had been done in the name of obedience rather than rebellion. This emboldened him to fiercely protect values such as discipline given scores of parents had literally entrusted their own children to him. This was not a responsibility he took lightly and he made it clear that nobody could just saunter into school and jeopardize what he was building.

While Mr Lahiri was a strict disciplinarian, he also had a great sense of humour. This would be put on display every

week when he would conduct a “general knowledge” class with us. He would call on students randomly and ask us questions such as “who or what is Euclid”? By constructing the question in the “who or what” format, he was trying to give students a chance to make an educated guess. But when someone would respond “Euclid is a type of eucalyptus”, Mr Lahiri would erupt into a hearty bout of uncontrollable laughter. We would soon come to learn that Euclid was a Greek mathematician but that was not the point: Mr Lahiri endeared himself to his students by reminding us of the importance of not taking ourselves too seriously.

Another advantage that Mr Lahiri had was a wonderful team supporting him with senior teachers such as Mr K. Balasubramaniam (“KBS”), Dr P. V Ramachandra, Mr Venkitachalam and Mr Rajan Mathew Thomas there to guide him against various centrifugal forces churning among various stakeholders. Their advice, however, was not always heeded. KBS, for example, was one of those legends who had no chinks in his teaching armor except a hearing aid which was prominently planted inside one of his ears. During a meeting in which certain differences of opinion surfaced, an exasperated KBS remarked, “Mr Lahiri you and I have a similar problem: we don't listen very well”. This upset Mr Lahiri because he felt that those who weren't with him, were against him – perhaps, one of his imperfections as an administrator. Learning the importance of arguing like you are right, but listening like you are wrong was a lesson I would come to appreciate at Lovedale. Regrettably, 25 years on, I've come to another sobering realization: learning such a valuable lesson is one thing; implementing it is another.

As destiny would have it, Mr Lahiri's last public speech

was delivered in Lovedale at our 20th year reunion in 2018. Among other things, he pensively recollected how he started off his career with a limited understanding of what it meant to be a teacher and sought forgiveness if anyone felt that his responses to various misdeeds were not proportional to what was at stake. In all the years I've known him, I've never once heard him publicly apologize for anything. In many ways, his speech served as a final lesson on leadership for his students: never cease to introspect, no matter how late in the day it may be.

In the final analysis, if one evaluates Mr Lahiri by the same yardstick that he espoused - the impact one has on society and the number of lives one touches - he lived a remarkable and rewarding life. When he passed, the outpouring of support from teachers, support staff and students - underscored the fact that not many teachers had the will and the sheer courage to do more for the school than Dev Lahiri.

May God bless his soul. May God bless the Lawrence School, Lovedale.

- Rudy Gopalkrishnan  
Class of 98







## Spring

With the coming of Spring  
waterfalls surge to life,  
cascade over boulders,  
flow under bridges of  
your life's path of  
contemplation and  
self-discovery.

Birds cheep and wade  
children splash happily  
in the gurgling water.

Blessed by the simple,  
Spring awakens your soul  
of boundless love  
to gratitude.

This poetry book "Reflections in Autumn" are parables that inspire contemplation of human connectedness. They are about ordinary toiling people, most impoverished, some oppressed, who despite their handicaps face the vicissitudes of life with grace, dignity and courage.

I am donating all the proceeds of the sale of my little poetry book to a charity called 'Days For Girls.'

Each poetry book purchased by someone goes to support an underserved woman somewhere in this world.

The electronic version of the book available in India from Amazon India. The paperback version is not available.

## Steps

Find peace in quotidian tasks  
happiness in a child's giggle  
a kite flying on a beach  
simple daily rituals  
In the mundane  
step after step  
tread lightly  
Be grateful  
Breathe!  
Smile!

**George K Chandy OL 1969**



## Jaji's Got a Gun!

i

Jaji slipped on her gumboots as she sat on the verandah. She picked up her carved rosewood walking stick and stepped outside. It had rained heavily for weeks, as it tended to in the hills near Mercara during the Southwest Monsoon. She had been enjoying reading 'Wuthering Heights' as she sipped on strong, homegrown Arabica coffee for most of the day. But now, there was a break in the rain and she felt like stretching her legs.

She looked at the gray skies and muttered to herself, “It would be nice to see the sun again. I've forgotten what sunshine feels like on my skin. The plants and animals could use a break, as well.”

The rainy season had been particularly severe. The sky was perpetually gray; and despite being just a few degrees north of the equator, the hilly terrain and thick cloud cover ensured that the atmosphere was cold and clammy.

Darcy, her dog, began to bark excitedly when he saw Jaji. He had been abandoned as a pup several months previously. By a stroke of good fortune he had happened to come across her as she was walking through her coffee estate. She had tried to shoo him off initially, thinking that he belonged to someone else;

but he kept following her. When she reached home, she took a closer look at him and was horrified. The puppy was just skin and bones, and clearly had not eaten in ages. *I would like to give those awful people who starved this poor dog a piece of my mind. After that, I'd be sure to give them a sound thrashing on their behinds with my walking stick,* she thought.

Jaji had adopted the puppy, and he was now devoted to her. She let Darcy out of his wooden kennel. She petted him on the head and he danced around her happily. The dog's brown coat was now sleek and glossy, and he looked healthy and happy. Jaji was pleased at the transformation, although she still had niggling doubts as to whether she had done the right thing by getting the local vet to neuter him. Then she remembered some of the awful stories about deviants that appeared in the newspapers and thought that if the same treatment was meted out to those perverted humans, the world would be a far better place.

Jaji decided to walk up a small hillock. She knew if the clouds cleared she would have a spectacular view of the paddy fields and lakes far below. If not, she would still enjoy the exercise. She set off briskly, but had to slow down half-way up the hill as she became winded. *I'm getting old. I used to be able to run up this very hill when I was a girl,* she

thought. In the meanwhile, after his pursuit of a large hare proved unsuccessful, Darcy tracked an elusive spurfowl that emitted an alarmed squawk as it went airborne with the noisy flapping of its wings. By the time Jaji reached the top of the little hill, the sun had made a most welcome appearance. She was tired and sat down on a black rock that overlooked the valley below. Darcy's coat was muddy and he lay panting happily by her side. Presently, he rolled over and she scratched his belly. The view below was magnificent. There were numerous waterfalls, some appearing as mere silver slivers against the dark mountains, while the larger ones were white and frothy as they raced down to the valley. There were fine, slow-moving clouds below her that caused beautiful, changing patterns of light in the wetlands spread across the valley. Suddenly, the air was filled with chirping and tweeting as the birds relished the unexpected warmth and sunshine after weeks of gloomy weather.

“Isn't this lovely, Darcy?” said Jaji, and her companion concurred by licking her face.

Jaji's thoughts turned back to her youth. She remembered the numerous occasions her own family had gathered at this very spot and she felt a wave of loneliness. She thought of the carefree get-togethers with grandparents, uncles, aunts and



cousins—the thrill of eating outside that made everything seem tastier, the good-natured teasing, the jokes, the singing contests, the bonfires and the games. The memories were vivid and she missed those happy times; but perhaps what she missed most of all was the feeling of love and comfort that enveloped those occasions, along with the sense of security that a supportive family provides.

The older generation had passed on, and, indeed, many of her generation were no more. A lone tear ran down her face, and Darcy sensing her changing mood placed his head in her lap. Jaji stroked Darcy's head as she wondered what had become of Sister Daphne, the English nun in her convent school who had inculcated a love of literature and taught her to speak in the clipped accent that remained after all these years.

The light changed slightly. Jaji looked up and noticed dark clouds moving in from the southwest. Another shower was imminent. She picked up her stick and began to walk back home. Darcy raced ahead, but would periodically circle back to check on her. As Jaji reached the base of the hill, a fine drizzle had begun. She increased her pace, and was glad to reach home before it really started pouring.

“There's a good boy. Now, hop into your house,” said Jaji after she had dried Darcy's coat with a

towel. For some reason, Darcy seemed uneasy and began to whine. Jaji was a bit puzzled as he was usually happy to get back into his castle.

“No, boy. You stay here or you will dirty my floor,” said Jaji and pushed him into his kennel.

By now, the rain was coming down in sheets, drenching everything in sight and cutting down visibility to just a few feet. Jaji removed her boots and sat down for a minute on her rocking chair.

## ii

Jaji had her keys on a long string around her neck. She inserted the key but before she could turn it, the door swung open. She was surprised, but entered the house. *I'm getting absent-minded in my old age*, she thought. She felt fortunate that there was no crime in the area.

Jaji made herself some tea, placed few Marie biscuits on a plate, and went out to the verandah. The rain had stopped and the air was once again filled with the pleasing sounds of birdsong. She tossed a few biscuits to Darcy, and settled down to relax. Once again, she was reminded of the kindly nun who had shown her how to brew the perfect cup of tea, all those years ago.

Darcy gobbled up the biscuits, but she noticed that

he was restless. He kept whining and looking at her. “Settle down, boy. You had a lovely walk chasing birds and who knows what else. I'm too tired to take you out again.”

Darcy stopped whining, but did not look relaxed. Consequently, Jaji felt distinctly uneasy. She remembered that the front door had not been locked; it was unlike her to forget to do so. She wondered if someone had entered the house while she was away, but brushed the thought aside. Even if burglars decided to break in to her house, she felt that there was nothing of any significant value they would find.

Then she remembered the jewels she had inherited from her mother, and her blood ran cold. They were the most exquisitely-crafted traditional jewels in the district and were the envy of many. To reassure herself that nothing was amiss, she went into her study and locked the door behind her. She moved aside the watercolour painting depicting Talacauvery, the origin of the mighty river that flowed east into the Bay of Bengal, bringing untold bounty to areas it irrigated along the way. She dialed the numbers from memory to the old safe in the wall and looked inside. She breathed a sigh of relief to find that nothing had been disturbed within. She decided to celebrate with a drink.



Jaji opened the teakwood cupboard where she kept a few bottles of liquor, and a puzzled look crossed her face. *I thought I had a few bottles of gin in here*, she thought. I really must be getting forgetful. She poured herself a stiff drink of Scotch whiskey, wound up her old gramophone and began to play records from her collection. Her tastes were somewhat unconventional for a septuagenarian. Whereas her contemporaries were busy listening to *bhajans* or singing old folk songs, Jaji tended to fancy rock and roll. She had first heard this genre when a visiting nephew had left his collection of records with her for safekeeping before he moved to Calcutta for his first job.

She played Elvis, whose superb voice she very much admired. She decided that if she ever travelled to America, she would like to meet the young man and tell him how much she liked his music. She was sorely tempted to get up and dance when the King belted out “Jailhouse Rock,” but managed to resist the urge when she thought of the damage it would do to her aching hip. She looked at the cover of the LP and saw that he looked very handsome with his dark hair and even features. Her mood turned somber as she thought of the young man who had wooed her so many years ago.

Jaji was once engaged to a young Captain in the Indian Army named Bidappa. They were very

much in love with each other. Biddu was brave and dashing and great things were expected of him in the army. Their families were in favour of the match and a date for the wedding had been fixed. Fate, however, willed otherwise. While on a tour of duty on the Western front, Biddu had distinguished himself with his leadership as his outnumbered and ill-equipped troops fought off repeated incursions by the enemy. The young Captain was tragically killed as he rescued one of his injured troops who had been stranded in no-man's land.

Jaji was shattered; neither posthumous decorations nor long speeches would bring back her fiancé. There had been other suitors, but in Jaji's mind no one ever measured up to her first love. She had referred to a rather effeminate banker as a 'pantywaist', a rich businessman with shifty eyes as a 'jackal', and an overly tactile and 'affectionate' tea planter from Darjeeling as an 'octopus'. She eventually made it clear to her family that she would not marry.

Jaji looked after her parents until they passed away, and ran their coffee estate by herself. Many years had passed and Jaji was no longer bitter about her loss. There were moments, however, when she was filled with loneliness and sadness as she thought of the life she and Biddu had planned. She

put away Elvis, and deciding that she needed a change of pace, listened to “Here Comes the Sun” – George Harrison's exquisitely-rendered song, heralding the end of winter. Given the harsh monsoon the area had experienced during the past months, she very much echoed the sentiments of the singer.

Jaji felt refreshed after bathing in copious amounts of hot water in the *gudda*—the fragrant, sauna-like, old-fashioned bathroom with a wood-fired boiler. She ate a light supper, made herself a cup of hot cocoa liberally fortified with brandy, and settled down in her armchair. She began to read her well-thumbed copy of Jane Austen's “Sense and Sensibility.” She slipped into the world of English landed gentry, until the effects of her earlier exertions and Morpheus caused her eyes to close and her book to slip to the floor.

Jaji woke with a start. She thought she heard a loud rattling sound. She had been dreaming of her childhood and was mortified to think that she had snored so loudly. She felt Sister Daphne would have considered the sound uncouth and distinctly unladylike. As she readied herself for bed, she heard the dog growling and yelping. She looked out of a nearby window, and once she was satisfied that nothing was amiss, said, “*Calm down, boy! We all need some sleep.*”



Darcy was quiet for a few moments. But as Jaji prepared to get into bed he began to whine and bark again.

“Oh! You spoilt little fellow,” she muttered irritably.  
*Then she heard it again!*

Jaji almost jumped out of her skin. The room was filled with sound that started off like a low pitched hum and increased to a deafening, rattling crescendo. However, Jaji had the blood of warriors running through her veins. What might have caused a normal person to turn into a pile of wobbly jelly, only galvanized her. She grabbed her trusty double-barreled shotgun from the closet and loaded it. In the meanwhile, Darcy had begun to bark loudly and she had a hard time pinpointing the source of the awful sound that filled her bedroom.

Jaji looked behind the curtains, stared into the darkness outside and even searched a couple of large cupboards in the room—but found nothing untoward. Eventually, she knelt down, looked under the rosewood four-poster and received the shock of her life!

*For there was the source of the awful noise!*

ii

A large, bearded man was asleep under the bed. As Jaji watched, her mouth opened involuntarily, and her eyes assumed saucer-like proportions. She quickly closed her mouth and bit back an oath, since Sister Daphne's influence on her deportment lingered. By the side of the intruder lay three empty bottles of her precious gin. As she watched, the hairy beast (as she now thought of him) inhaled with a tremendous rattling sound, appeared to smile contentedly and proceeded to exhale with a huge hurricane-like 'whoosh'.  
*“Hey! Get out of there,”* shouted Jaji.

The man just wiggled his toes, and continued to snore. Jaji was very angry. She poked the man's large belly with her gun, but to no avail. The beast merely scratched his armpit and turned over so he was facing away from her. The resulting sight of his hairy cleavage caused Jaji to gag. To her chagrin, the snoring actually seemed to get louder, although it now sounded like an old lorry engine that refused to start on a winter morning.

In the meantime, Darcy was barking furiously. *Well, cleanliness be damned,* thought Jaji, *I've got to get this beast out of here!* So, she let Darcy into the house. The dog promptly jumped on her and left muddy paw prints on her night clothes. He

then sniffed the air, and made a beeline for her bedroom. As soon as he spotted the stranger, Darcy snarled, crawled under the bed and began to bark; all the while spewing saliva all over the floor and the sleeping man's back. The sounds of the intruder's snoring, coupled with Darcy's high-decibel efforts were giving Jaji a headache. However, she had been so badly traumatized by the glimpse of the hirsute rear end that she could not bear to peek at the proceedings under her four-poster.

Predictably, when his efforts did not yield the desired results, Darcy, being an intelligent sort of canine, altered his approach. He sank his teeth into the sleeping man's abundant posterior. Since it is presumably difficult to bark with a mouthful of flesh, Darcy now restricted himself to angry growling as he shook his head from side to side.

Much to Jaji's relief, the snoring soon stopped. Instead, she heard a pitiful squeal followed by a frightened scream, *“Ayyo, my piles!”*

*That's so crude,* thought Jaji. *I would have much preferred it if he had said he had said 'haemorrhoids'.*

Although she was still very angry, this pathetic cry caused Jaji to call off Darcy. Jaji grew a little concerned since the dog kept shaking his head from



side to side, and sticking out his tongue as if he had tasted something distasteful.

In the meanwhile, the intruder was crawling out from under the bed. When he stood up, Jaji realized that he was even bigger than she had initially thought. He towered over her, and sported a large, unkempt black beard. Predictably, he reeked of gin. His red, somewhat watery eyes darted back and forth between Darcy and the shotgun which was pointed at his huge, rotund belly.

“Get your hands up, you bad man!” said Jaji, as Darcy growled menacingly.

The intruder lifted one hand up. The other was massaging his injured posterior.

“Put both your hands in the air, or I'll set the dog on you again,” said Jaji firmly.

“Oww! But it hurts,” he said plaintively. But when Jaji cocked the hammers of the gun, and Darcy bared his fangs, the man quickly raised his other hand

“What's your name?”

“Palangappa,” said the man.

“Well, Palangappa, I am not sure what you were

after, but I am going to find out.”

The old woman's steely gaze, the shotgun and the growling dog, all conspired to get Palangappa to sing like a canary. Palangappa was from Kutta in the southern part of the district. He admitted that he liked his liquor. Jaji nodded understandingly; after all, she did enjoy her evening tipples. Palangappa's wife, Thangu, however, controlled all the family finances and had enforced a complete and total ban on alcohol consumption. In fact, she had thrown such a scare into his drinking buddies that they were too petrified to help him out with either a few rupees or a couple of drinks. For six long months, Palangappa had managed to survive under these draconian conditions. Finally, he just could not take it any longer; so he had hitchhiked all the way to the northern part of the district in the hope that an old school friend, Charmanna, would loan him some money.

When Palangappa showed up at his friend's doorstep, he was horrified to find that the poor man was controlled by a wife who would make the harshest dictator of a banana republic seem like a teddy bear. As for Charmanna's daughter! Palangappa found her even more terrifying and authoritarian than her mother. After retirement from the army, which necessitated prolonged contact with his wife and daughter, Charmanna—a

once brave, decorated war veteran—had turned into a quivering, nervous, teetotaling wreck. The poor man's nerves were so badly shot that during Palangappa's visit, Charmanna had actually executed a gravity-defying vertical leap upon hearing a little kitten mew.

Palangappa had beaten a hasty retreat and was wandering through the district planning his next move. In order to get a little money for that desperately needed liquor, he considered various options; these included robbing a bank, becoming a highwayman, learning to pick pockets, selling a kidney, and even begging. Fortunately, good sense had prevailed and he had not indulged in such nefarious and foolhardy enterprises.

Palangappa explained he had lost his way and found himself at Jaji's house. He had knocked, and when there was no response, he had jimmied the lock and entered. He meant to ask for a hot meal and a few rupees, but upon finding no one home, he had located the liquor cabinet and satisfied his all-consuming craving for alcohol.

Jaji's shotgun remained unwaveringly pointed at Palangappa. However, there was a ring of authenticity to his story, and her anger began to dissipate. She actually began to feel a bit bad for the intruder.



“Turn around,” said Jaji.

When Palangappa followed her orders, she was horrified to observe the tattered blood-spattered seat of his pants—for Darcy had certainly extracted his pound of flesh. Jaji could not quite bring herself to disinfect his wounds, but she decided that the poor fellow needed some help. So she directed him to the dining room, where she ordered him to sit at the table (after duly lining the chair with an old newspaper). She served him a generous helping of leftover rice bread and curried pork, which he ate ravenously.

Darcy in the meanwhile, had decided that the intruder, whose posterior he had so efficiently shredded, posed no threat. The dog sat by the table, produced copious amounts of saliva, and stared at the food with such intensity that Palangappa was forced to part with a few choice pieces of the tasty, fat laden meat.

After Palangappa had eaten, Jaji decided that she would give him some advice and a good scare. She said, “Well, Palangappa, you have broken and entered my house and stolen my gin. I am afraid I am going to have to take you to the local police constable, who will know what to do with you.”

“Please, *Thaie*,” said Palangappa, hoping that addressing the old lady as 'grandma' would get him off the hook, “if my wife ever hears of this, *I've had it*. My life will not be worth living. She will nag and

hold this over my head forever and ever.”

“Well, you committed the crime, son, now you must do the time,” replied Jaji sternly, although she had secretly decided to let him off the hook. In fact, she resolved to head over to Kutta shortly and advise Thangu to allow her husband to indulge in a couple of drinks every weekend, and to greatly increase the fibre in his diet.

Jaji handed over a bottled of Dettol which she asked him to use to treat his ravaged bottom later, and slipped a few rupees into his breast pocket. She followed Palangappa out of the house with the gun trained at his back. The bits of newspaper that adhered to his rear end did not make for a dignified sight, but Jaji was most grateful that the awful wounds were obscured.

Darcy was pleased—he had had an exciting evening and a delicious snack. He wagged his tail as he trotted happily behind Jaji. Jaji had planned to march Palangappa to the main road, warn him never to indulge in criminal activities and send him on his way.

As fate would have it, Jaji tripped over a stone, and fell down heavily. The gun went off and the roar of the shot in the still of the night was deafening. Fortunately, no one was in the line of fire, and

(except for a ripe jackfruit on a nearby tree that was obliterated) no harm was done. Darcy went berserk and started barking; he thought Jaji had knocked over a wild boar and charged into the estate in search of fresh game.

By the time Jaji brushed herself off and picked up her gun, her uninvited visitor was not in the vicinity. She heard the sound of heavy footsteps receding and pointed her torch in that direction. She observed poor, terrified Palangappa making a getaway along the road.

Jaji squinted as she thought there was something odd about the way he was running. Indeed, clutching one's sore rear end with both hands while attempting to sprint does not make for a graceful sight. “Poor duffer,” muttered Jaji as she shrugged, “I hope he will be okay.”

*This story is based (very, very loosely) on an incident that occurred sometime in the mid to late 1900s in Coorg, when a single, older woman found an intruder under her bed and bravely apprehended him at gunpoint.*



**- Tilak Ponappa, Sumeru '80**



## Eat Now ... Complain later

One thing my parents did not tell me before sending me to Lovedale, was about the food I'd get there. Reality hit home when on day one, I was guided into believing that eating porridge was good for my health, and had nothing to do with horses. After the first spoon, I saw my life (and my taste buds) pass before my eyes!

Agreed food wasn't everything, but I never thought my life would revolve around food, or the lack of it, from then on. Headmasters spent hours at assembly time, telling us how school food built character. But as far as I was concerned – the only thing it built, were my stomach muscles!

Tuck shop at a younger age, was actually a place to eat at (unlike at a later age, when you choreographed your visits with the Girls' afternoon out) In those pre- cholesterol days, our favorite dish was "Egg on Bread". Any guy worth his salt, needed to have a bath after consuming that dish. Egg on Bread was successful, mainly because it had more oil than Kuwait. In Richard Armor's words – "In those days – oil was not refined . . . . But then again, nor was the proprietress. "

I have no idea how we actually looked forward to Tuck Shop's culinary skills, or more aptly put – the proprietress's culinary Kills. Tuck Shop's cost of production was lower than a sweat shop, and this showed in the taste of the Coconut “sawdust” Balls, and Orange “where is the taste” Juice. I think they mistook our famished cry of “I could eat a horse” for “I could eat the same food as a horse”

If tuckers was heaven, then Dining Hall was hell. Saturday was chicken night. All that salivating for one piece of chicken, which looked like it had been raised in Auschwitz. The chicken pieces

were so miniscule, that I'm sure after one look at them, Arundhati got the title for her book "God of Small Things "

There was a wheat shortage in the Nilgiris in 1973, and that was when I lost my love for rice, apart from my taste buds. This was no surprise, as once for 2 days running we had Rice porridge for brekker, Rice for lunch and Rice and Rice pudding for dinner. The head cook Ramatta (the Kitchen Rat ) shouted "Let them eat Rice" as he took another slug from his bottle, which was definitely Formaldehyde – taken from Bio Lab, when Long John wasn't looking.

Actually, some of my classmates pioneered “Fast Food” in the Nilgiris. Their version was to dip bread in the gravy bowl, and fling it across to the Sumeru and Aravalli tables. Luckily for us, Newton's law was not at work, and most of the bread did not come back to us. Come to think of it, I think they were more upset, when some of the hungry Vindhya guys, asked for the bread to be returned.

What I still don't understand, is that all the guys in school complained about "bad food" somewhere in – between their 4th and 5th helpings – of the same food! Our activity levels were so high, that in sheer numbness, at that moment, any food tasted good ( it reminds me of the old tale of why mosquito mats work – They induce sleep, so the sleeper is just unaware , that he is being bitten ! )

Shinkows at Ooty, was the Oasis in the desert of school food. After a week of boiled rice, bondas and porridge, our stomachs screamed (in tune with the Chicago song ) “ take me back to Shinkows .... Coz the Zodiac room charges more tax! “

On Sunday, before we went to Assembly Rooms for our dose of Hollywood, Shinkows was a ritual stop. The owners of Shinkows stayed behind the restaurant. If you went too early,

Grandma Shinkows would still be cutting vegetables on one of the tables. Whenever the kids cried, Krishnamachar would shout "Oh no ! Meat shortage again! "Suzy our favourite waiter (who served at 4 k.m.p.h. ) was an institution. When he died, they shut the restaurant between 3 and 6.00 p.m. in his memory (Didn't lose too many customers between those hours! )

King Star Fudge was the delicacy we fought House wars on. Then fudge was bought in grams not kilos. Just a small piece before we ran for our "taxi for 13" at Charing Cross to take us back to Lovedale.

Last Founder's my wife accompanied me to School. She started having second thoughts on our marriage when she saw me rushing for Chai and Biscuits after parade. She had to have her own shrink, after I insisted on eating at Shinkows 4 times in 3 days!

Why don't Lawrence wives understand . . . This was the food that makes their cooking look good!

Gautam Joshi  
Vindhya – 1979





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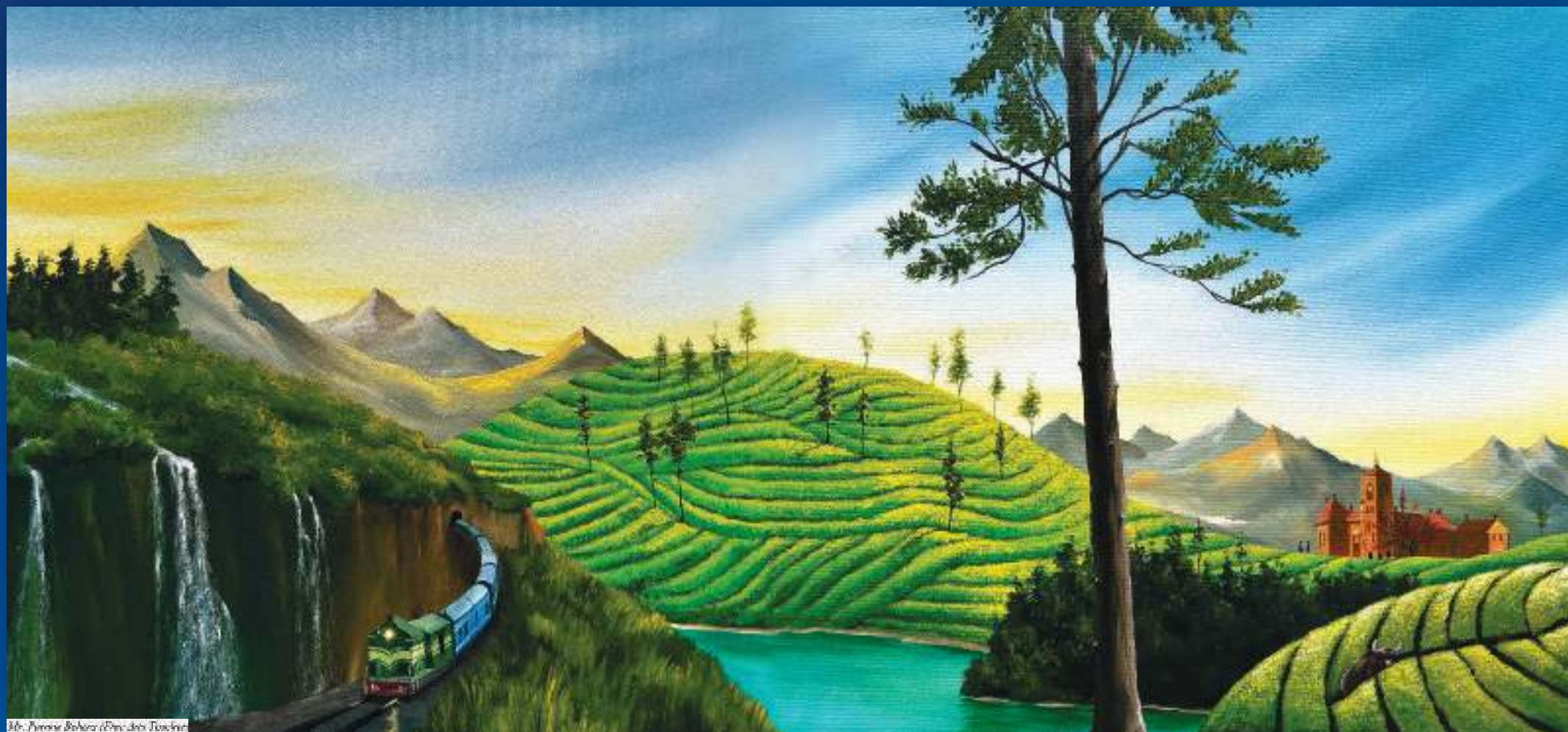












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