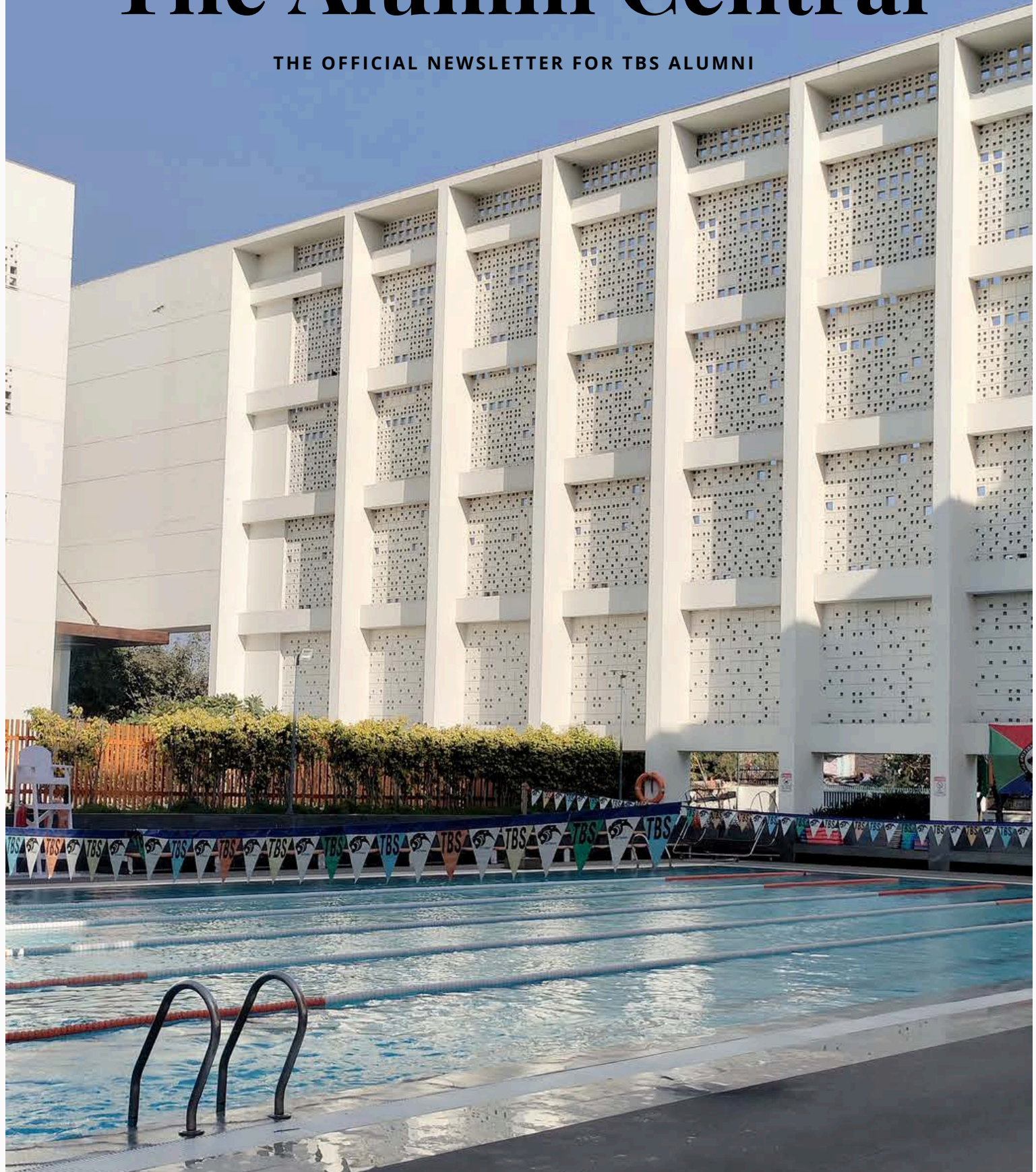


VOLUME I ISSUE 1
APRIL 2024

The Alumni Central

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR TBS ALUMNI



Thrive • Believe • Succeed



WELCOME!

We are excited to relaunch the alumni newsletter for our extended TBS family spread across the world! This newsletter brings inspiring stories from both our alumni community and the current student body. We value the constant support we have received from all of you and look forward to celebrating your successes together.

Warm regards
The Alumni Office

In this Issue

- Welcome Note
- Alumni Involvement
- Alumni Association News
- Alumni Spotlight
- Student Achievements
- Term in Pics
- Notices

DEAR ALUMNI

Your newsletter is back after a hiatus of a few years! A special warm welcome to the most recent alumni who are joining their seniors and peers in the haloed ranks of TBS alumni.

Coming to you on the back of 2023, our Diamond Jubilee year, is indeed heartwarming. It was great to see a number of former students at the celebrations (many of whom are now TBS parents; gosh, how time flies!) that lasted through the year in different avatars and venues. The events were a beautiful mix of nostalgia and dreams for the future, and it was abundantly clear that our ethos remain flourishing and firmly embedded in our DNA. We also continue to be the collective wind beneath the wings of our pathbreaking innovators and achievers.

What has changed, indeed, are the huge strides we have made while flying with our wings to conquer new heights: TBS being amongst the Top 3 Private International Schools in India and the Best 125 Private Schools Internationally (Carfax Global Schools Index), becoming an accredited member of COBIS (Council of British International Schools) and partnering with University College London to launch their inaugural UCL India Summer School, to name a few.

Stay connected and join us as we embark on our journey for the next 60 years and beyond, determined as ever to dream big, think big and achieve more than what the world thinks we can.

Vanita Uppal OBE
Director



ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT



AYESHA SINGH AT PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS CEREMONY

It was a delight for us to have Ayesha Singh, class of 2009, as the guest of honour at this year's Principal's Awards Ceremony for Key Stage 4. Students listened with rapt attention as Ayesha spoke about her work as a sculptor, explaining the intricacies of kinetic sculptures. She also shared with the students how TBS encouraged her to pursue art and unleash the full potential of her creativity.

SAARTHAK SHARMA'S EXHIBITION AT AIFACS

Saarthak Sharma, leaving year 2011, put up his first solo exhibition, Untamed, at the All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society recently. Our Director, Vanita Uppal OBE, inaugurated the exhibition, making the occasion even more special for him. Saarthak's works concentrate on depiction of wildlife, a haven where untamed visions roam free. His paintings have been inspired by Africa's biodiversity, pulsating with the energy of the animal kingdom.



ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT

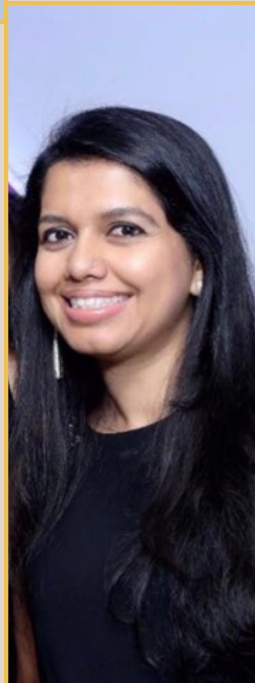
A LOOK AT TBS HISTORY

Sarika Sharma Vyas, leaving year 1994, and Shagun Gupta Girdhar, class of 2001, conducted a session for Year 1 on the history of TBS. They had a fun interaction with the students, which included tracing how the foundation of the school was laid to how the construction of the new building came about. The class also asked Sarika and Shagun a plethora of questions about their time at TBS and their memories. It was a lovely afternoon of travelling back in time!



TBS ALUMNI AT CAREERX TAKEOVER

The school, in collaboration with alumni and parents, organised CareerX Takeover for Years 7 and 8, aimed at helping students extend their learning beyond the four walls aimed. Over two days, 30 speakers did a classroom takeover where they explored a diverse range of career pathways in fields such as sports, art, business, design, theatre, IT, culinary arts, journalism and many more. Alumni Pia Desai (class of 1999), Aditya (class of 2000) and Ashish Khanna (class of 1997), Siddharth Mathur (class of 1994), Kula Naidu (class of 2001), and Shivalli Jaggi Bhatia (class of 1999) were invited to be speakers at the event.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS

TBS Alumni Association

GOLF Tournament

26 APRIL 2024



open to

ALUMNI | ALUMNI FAMILY MEMBERS | CURRENT PARENTS

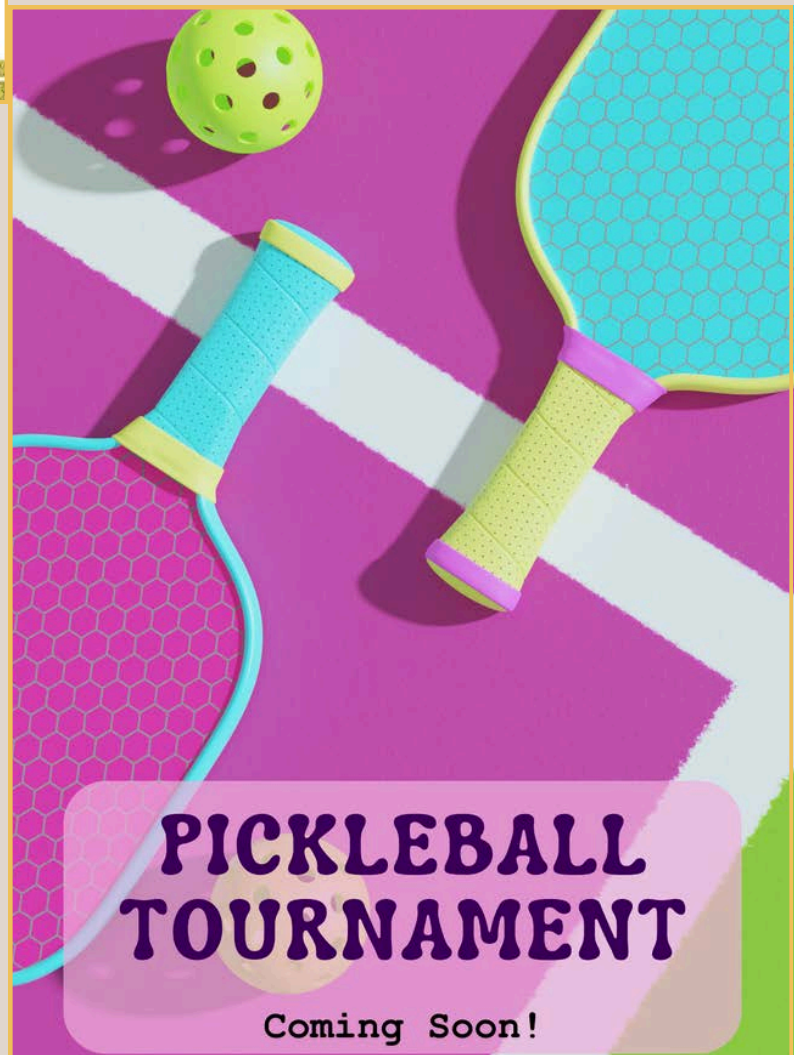
GOLF TOURNAMENT

The TBS Alumni Association is organising its very first golf tournament! The community will gather on 26 April for a fun game in 18 hole double peoria format, which will be followed by lunch and a prize distribution ceremony. The tournament is open for all alumni, their family members and TBS parents.

If you are interested in joining the game on the greens, please write to us at alumni@british-school.org for registration details.

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

The Alumni Association is planning to organise a pickleball tournament for the alumni in the next few months! Watch your inbox for an email from the alumni office for more details on the tournament and how to register for it.



PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Coming Soon!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



What has been your biggest achievement in the last one year?

On the work front, the highlight was getting appointed as Director to the UNESCO New Delhi Regional Office in October 2023. I am very happy to be back in Delhi—the city holds a lot of fond memories from my childhood. It is a place of familiarity and comfort.

In my current role, I coordinate operations in the South Asian region, including India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Maldives. We are also working on development strategies in a variety of sectors, such as education and sustainability, apart from our work on preservation of living cultural heritage. I am particularly excited about India hosting the World Heritage Committee for the first time in July 2024.

On the personal front too, it was a great year as I got married to my long-term partner, who became my wife in June 2023.

Help us follow the trajectory of your career.

The stepping stone was my PhD in Cultural Anthropology, during which I did extensive ethnographic research among the Na'hai speakers of Malakula, Republic of Vanuatu. After that, I worked as a consultant for UNESCO in early 2000s, where I helped with the setting up of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and also worked on the Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems programme. My role was to analyse traditional systems of environmental conservation practised by various communities and plan how to spread awareness about them.

I then moved on to working as a UNESCO Programme Specialist in Culture first in Tanzania and then in Thailand, focusing on East African and Southeast Asian countries respectively. In 2016, I moved to Paris as the Secretary of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Coming back to India last year was a big change. I am now overseeing all the UNESCO sectors in the region, including protection of cultural heritage, the UNESCO programmes on communication, natural sciences, human sciences, biodiversity and education.



Can you share any learnings from your time working as the Secretary for UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention?

I have learnt over time that it is important to educate people on what intangible cultural heritage, also called living heritage, truly is. We have to make people aware of the ceremonies, rituals, arts, crafts, methods of worship and so much more that makes up a community's culture. This heritage is not a fossil of the past but rather a living and dynamic aspect that needs to be safeguarded. It is our responsibility to educate the younger generations and make them feel a sense of pride in their heritage. That is the only way to safeguard the diverse and unique traditions across the world. There are so many communities and cultures that are still going unnoticed, their knowledge and practices need to be valorised. They have existed for centuries but are now getting lost to the quick sands of globalisation and rapid economic transformation. The only real way to save them is through intergenerational transmission.

You served as a UNESCO Programme Specialist (Culture) in both East Africa and Southeast Asia, how different are the cultures in the two regions?

I have worked in Australia, Republic of Vanuatu, Tanzania, India, Thailand, and several countries in Europe and Southeast Asia—it is fascinating how varied the cultures and traditions are but at the same time we have more commonalities than we believe.

When I was working as the Secretary for the 2003 Convention, I noticed that there was a lot of talk from global leaders emphasising the difference in their cultural notions and practices, but there were so many similarities that were glossed over. Cultures around the world have been borrowing from each other for centuries, in terms of architecture, food, decor, etc. While different cultures might have different means of expression, at the end of the day, our concerns and aspirations are quite similar. Today, there are huge diaspora communities everywhere, such as the Indian community in Zanzibar, that have brought their traditions and cultural practices with them to the region, thus influencing the local practices immensely. It is a fascinating phenomenon to observe.



How do you think TBS has supported your journey?

My siblings—Anthony and Nathalie—can testify to this: the most beautiful thing about being at TBS is the friendships that you forge here. Studying at The British School gives you a unique opportunity to interact with a multilingual and multicultural student body. During my time at the school, I learnt how to build a rapport with people different from me, and not only respect but enjoy the differences in where we come from. This experience was immensely helpful for me later in life when I was researching for my PhD and once I started working with UNESCO. I was able to adapt and accept cultural differences with ease due to my early exposure to diversity and plurality.

Do you have a favourite memory from your time at TBS?

While it is hard to pick a particular memory, I do remember thoroughly enjoying playing football in the fields. I also remember these fun t-shirts we used to have, with the motto Unity in Diversity. There was an elephant in the middle of the logo with the words wrapped around it. My sister, Nathalie, along with her friends, was responsible for its creation.



How can the other alumni engage with or support your work?

The best way people can contribute to UNESCO's work for safeguarding culture is by encouraging their children to engage with their heritage. Combine education and heritage in your households and show the younger generation the value your rituals and traditions hold, without trying to freeze them in the past. If children are motivated to fight issues such as racism and sexism, while promoting their own cultures, it is a win for us all. Inspire them to explore different cultures from around the world and learn about them.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Samaara Bhardwaj, Year 12, won an award for the category 'Top in India for Cambridge IGCSE Literature in English' at the Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards.



- Showcasing incredible skills and intelligence, Aaryan Dua, Ansh Jain, Param Sachdeva and Parth Agarwal from Year 12 won the Mathematics Premier League organised by Singapore International School.
- Krishiv Jain, Year 10, won first prize at the University of Auckland's United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Poster Competition, held at the New Zealand High Commission in New Delhi. Krishiv submitted an innovative entry called ClimAct, which leverages technology to promote sustainable thinking and action amongst school students.



- TBS participated in the National Cyber Olympiad for the very first time. Out of 23 students who entered the competition, eight students from Years 9 and 11 won six Gold Medals and two Zonal Excellence Awards.



STEM (IRIS) Fair

Aaryan Dua, Year 12, was one of the top 100 finalists selected for the Innovation and Research in STEM (IRIS) National Fair 2024. His research focuses on biomedical engineering and the use of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence. Aaryan has created a prototype to detect emotions and emotional attacks through the use of ECG, facial and audio signals in real time.



Glass Up!

Parth Aggarwal, Year 12, is the proud Chief Operating Officer of Glass Up India, an initiative with sustainability at its core. Repurposing glass waste, the Glass Up India team has upcycled more than 10,000 alcohol bottles into innovative candles. All the proceeds were donated to the Cuddles Foundation for paediatric cancer care. Parth has also provided support to the differently abled at Cheshire Home by teaching them how to repurpose glass waste into candles.



International Day 2024



Secondary Sports Day



Spring Celebrations



I AM TBS Dance Off



Explora Science Fair

TERM IN PICS



Community Service Programme



Nursery Gardening



International Mother Language Day



TBS Rise



EYFS Polar Exhibition



Holi Celebrations

NOTICES

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Mrs Sharda Paul on 5 March 2024 in Bengaluru, at the age of 94. She joined TBS as a teacher in 1968 and was with us for more than two decades. Mrs Paul touched many lives during her time here. Our deepest condolences to her family.



Mrs Sharda Paul
(09.09.1929–05.03.2024)



Please write to us at alumni@british-school.org to help update your details in our database.



Received an award? Published a book?
Ran a marathon?

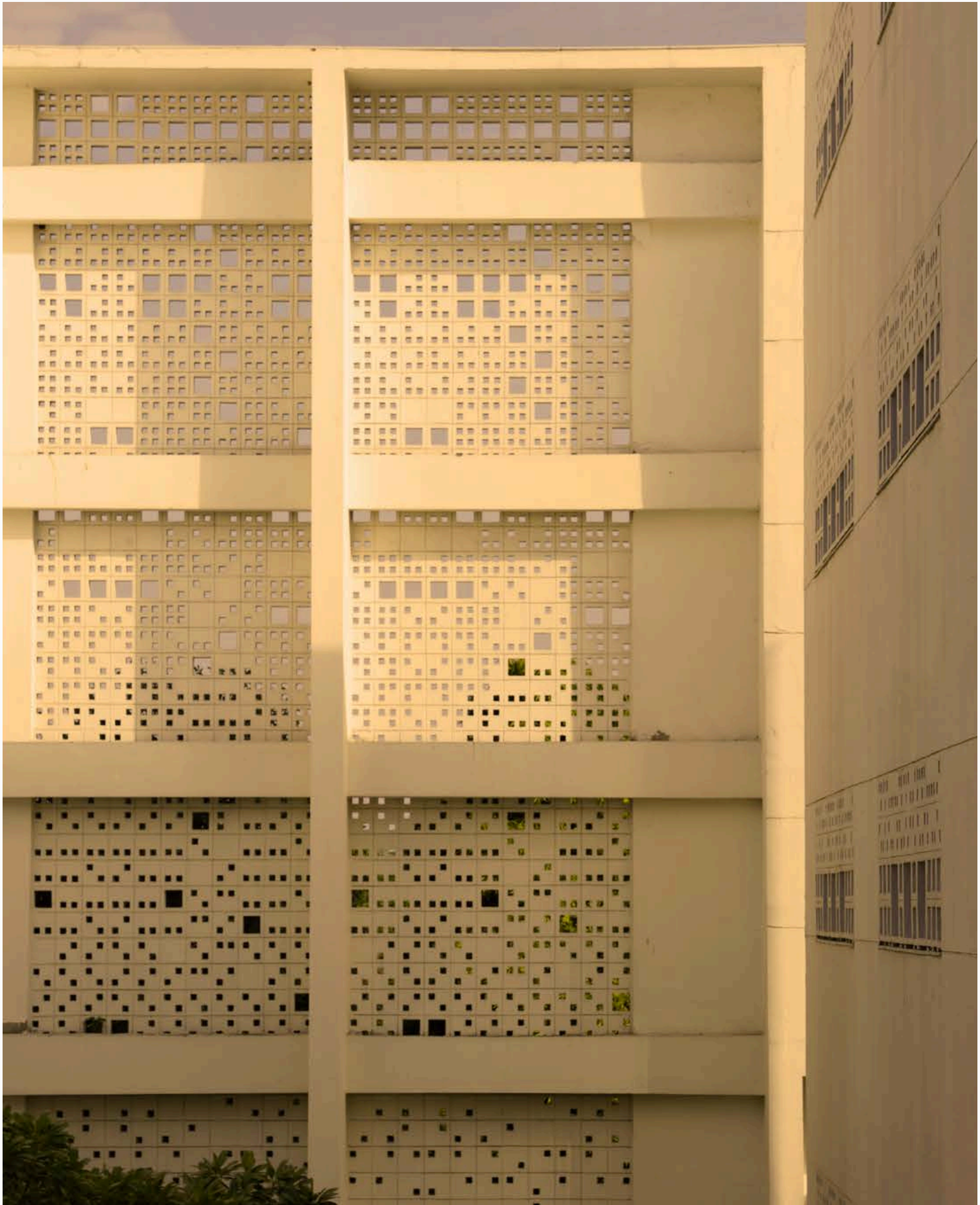
Share your achievements with us and we will post them in the alumni newsletter.

Find your lost friends!

If you would like to get in touch with a long-lost school friend, leave a message in the next issue and they just might get in touch with you.



Apply now for your children's admission to the school! Visit our [website](#) for further details.



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