Good morning ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, welcome to our 169th Founder’s Day. On behalf of the Lawrence School Sanawar Society, the Board of Governors, staff and students I extend a warm welcome to all our distinguished guests, parents and Old Sanawarians, especially the batches of 1956, 1966 and 1991 who are celebrating their diamond, golden and silver jubilees respectively this year.

Please join me in welcoming our Chief Guest Mr. Shiv Nadar, Founder and Chairman, HCL and Shiv Nadar Foundation.

Mr. Shiv Nadar was born and raised in mofussil Tamil Nadu, in an India awakening to its first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru’s “Tryst with Destiny”. Studying his way through the Indian schooling and graduate system, a scholastically-gifted Mr. Nadar confronted both the harsh realities and the opportunities of a struggling Indian state before he saw his first big town, Chennai, at the age of 21. His story is both a reflection of the times he lived in as well as the future that he always dreamt of shaping.

In 1976 HCL was created in a Delhi Barsati “akin to a garage startup” with a compelling vision – that the microprocessor would change the world.

After playing a key role in putting India on the global technology map, HCL in 2014 diversified and forayed into healthcare. In 1994, Mr. Nadar established what he believed was closest to his heart - the philanthropic Shiv Nadar Foundation and created its first initiative in Chennai, the SSN Institutions, that is a top ranked engineering college.
Vidyagyan, an innovation in school education, aims at creating leaders from across the cross-section of the society. A young and a unique research-led interdisciplinary university, the Shiv Nadar University has been identified as India’s first Ivy League institution.

In recognition of his pioneering role in business and philanthropy in India and across the globe, Mr. Nadar has received several honours and accolades in the past, notable being the Padma Bhushan from the President of India in 2008, the BNP Paribas Grand Prize for Individual Philanthropy in 2013, the AIMA Managing India Corporate Citizen Award, the ICSI Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in Corporate Governance and the Golden Peacock Award for Social Leadership in 2014. He was also named the Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year in 2015 by Forbes.

Mr. Shiv Nadar often says that he is a product of education. He is restless, passionate and a creative institution builder who also likes to quote Andy Grove by stating “Only the Paranoid Survive”.

Mr. Nadar stays in Delhi with his wife Kiran. Kiran Nadar, an Old Sanawarian (batch of 1966) is an internationally renowned bridge player and an avid art collector, has established the iconic Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, India’s largest private philanthropic art museum.

Thank you Mr. Nadar, for taking time out from your busy schedule.
Ladies and gentlemen, while it is a matter of great pride and privilege to be associated with The Lawrence School, Sanawar as a member of staff or alumni, it is a rare honour and privilege to be the Headmaster of the ‘Best School of All’.

I have come to Sanawar with a dream and that is to place Sanawar among the top boarding Schools in the country. We at Sanawar have embarked on a plan with the intention of making teaching and learning more meaningful.

In this year’s class XII CBSE results, the batch average was 84%. Yudhvir Kabuli of Commerce stream scored the highest percentage of 95.6%. Kesang Tenzin Doma and Bhavarth Verma stood first in Humanities and Science streams by scoring 95.2% and 94.2% respectively. Kesang Tenzin Doma and Prabhbir Singh Mann scored 99 marks in Geography and History respectively. Business Studies, Political Science and Computer Science had 98 as the highest score followed by 97 in English, Economics, Chemistry, Painting and Accountancy. Out of a batch of 86 students, 16 students scored 90% or above and 23 scored between 85-90%.

Our averages remained higher than the highest averages at the national level in CBSE in 13 out of 18 subjects taught by us in Sanawar.

This year we have introduced three cash awards of Rs. 10,000 each for those students who stand first in Sciences, Commerce and Humanities streams and eighteen cash awards of Rs. 5,000 each for the students
securing highest marks in individual subjects in class XII Board examination.

In order to prepare our students for the competitive examinations, we have arranged visiting faculty from Chandigarh to guide our class XI and XII Science students. The faculty visits thrice a week and helps in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics.

A special request to all UV parents not to rush or succumb to the pressure of your child while deciding to withdraw him / her after Class X for the purpose of competitive examinations. Speak to us before you take a final call. The School is aware of such needs and is making all efforts to satisfy them with in the limitations of a boarding School system. My experience has been that most of the students and their parents regret their decision later. Angad Singh Virdi [Batch of 2014] has got into IIT Roorkee after dropping a year after school.

From this year we have raised the bar for our students to qualify to sign the Honour’s Book. Now they have to score a minimum of 85% marks in all assessments, half yearly and final examination as compared to 80% earlier. We will be re-visiting the criteria for getting a commendation, distinction or achiever category and will be looking at raising the bar for these qualifications as well.

Roshan Raj, Abhishek A Kumar, Abhijit A Kumar and Sarthak Gupta qualified for level – II of Silver Zone Mathematics Olympiad and they were awarded with certificates of excellence for getting top ranks in the State.
Combined Science, Mathematics and Computers quizzes are being organized, both for the junior as well as the senior classes.

Science Aptitude tests for classes 7 and 8 and Electronics Model Making called “Joy of Science” as a hobby have been introduced. The Educational trip to NASA was successfully conducted last term. We are looking at modifying this trip from next year by incorporating some ground work to be done by our students in the School before they go to NASA for advance work. This is going to make the trip more meaningful.

In Inter School Hindi Debate Competition held in R. I. M. C. Dehradun, Tushar Garg and Yakshita Bansal reached the Semifinal. In another Inter School Hindi Debate held at The Doon School Dehradun, Jaiveer Singh was declared The Best Speaker in 1st preliminary round and Tushar Nandy was declared The Best Speaker in 2nd preliminary round. Inter House Jr. and Sr. Hindi Debates and Declamations, P.D. Hindi Declamation, Poetry recitation, Inter Section Essay writing, Paragraph writing, Hand Writing and Picture writing competitions in Hindi and Handwriting Competition in Punjabi were organised. Students were encouraged to address assemblies in Hindi.

In the month of June a group of twelve students went to Slovenia to participate in World School Debates in which around 250 participants from across the world took part. Jaiveer Singh and Ridhi Sharma got a special mention as the best speakers in the four different rounds that our school
team won. The school has decided to make World School Debates an annual feature.

On 30th July a team comprising of Sukhrit Kaur, Zainab Samshi, Atishya Nayak and Srijani Sankar Barik participated in Silver Fiesta-2016 held at Kasiga School, Dehradun. Our team stood first out of the twelve participating schools.

Like every year Inter-House English Debate as well as Declamation Competitions were organized in both the terms. A Literary Club was started this term to promote reading habit among our students and the first ever Literary Festival is scheduled in the third week of October this year.

Our school has been a center for conducting Graded Examination in Spoken English, organized by Trinity College, London since 2006. This year 89 students from L III to U IV classes have been registered for the exam which will be conducted in Nov.

International English Olympiad for students of L III to U V, is scheduled in the month of November.

Our Business Quiz team consisting of Vimanyu Chowdhary, Mayum Vaidya and Harsh Kholta finished as the 2nd Runner Up in an Inter School Business Quiz organised by Vivek High School in Chandigarh.

Another Business Quiz team comprising of Devansh Vadhera, Vimanyu Chowdhary and Harsh Kholta participated in Kirloskar Inter School Business Quiz organised by us on 3rd September in which 24 Schools from
all over India participated. In a neck to neck fight with Modern School, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi our team bagged the 1st position.

A Painting Competition organised by Inner Wheel Club and Prafulla Dahanukar art Foundation on 14th March, 2016 saw Srijani Sankar Barik winning Good Art Zone award and Manik Virk winning the first prize-Zonal Gold award of Rs. 15,000 at the National Level.

Our students have been taking part in various MUN Conferences. Jaiveer Singh, Chaitali Verma, Tushar Nandi, Akshita Kaushik, Nitya Khanna, Rivaan Singh, Saina Sodhi, Yudeep Gaekwad, Anandita Maini, Rivaan Khara and Vedant Mehra have proved their mettle in this field. The first ever SNAMUN Club Conference was held in May this year.

Ladies and gentlemen as part of our on-going teacher training and enhancement of life skills, the Spring Term kick started with workshops on 'Leadership and Boarding Schools', and 'Grooming and Interpersonal Skills.'

The Founder’s term began with Dr. Alison Potter’s workshop, ‘Strategic Teaching in Classrooms’, and Mrs. Neerja Sisodia’s workshop on Communication Skills. A follow up was done in September with a workshop conducted by Dr. Paul Shea, on Effective Teaching and Learning in Classrooms, this was a highly interactive discussion that proved to be very fruitful.

A workshop on etiquettes and communication skills was also organised for the administrative staff at the beginning of this term.
Mrs. Mala Tandon’s workshop on Communication Skills for the U VI is slated for October.

Mr. Kumar Gautam, an OS and a teacher here, was awarded the ‘Rajiv Gandhi Gold Medal Award’ for his outstanding contribution in the field of development research, education and social work.

Counselling is provided to self-referred and referred students. Orientation programmes for new admissions of Lower 3 to Lower 6 were carried out. Lower three to Lower five students had interactive sessions on various topics like emotional intelligence, peer pressure, assertiveness, career awareness, etc. Upper Six boys were counseled about bullying and its legal implications.

Our endeavor is to spread awareness, information, guidance and assistance to make our students make better choices for themselves after class XII. We intend to expand the Counselling and Career guidance facilities in future.

We have up-graded our internet Leased Line from 6 Mbps to 10 mbps from BSNL for faster speed. We intend to boost it up to 30 mbps in the next couple of years.

We are in the process of providing the facility of Intranet & Internet at all academic spaces & staff residences.

Also, we are in process of installing more CCTV cameras at the different locations in the campus and more Wi-Fi Hot Spots.
The Founder’s term began with much enthusiasm for the Nature Club. We tried our hand at something new, a workshop to build birdhouses and picket fences to put up around our in-house project- ‘The Leisure Garden’ and elsewhere on the campus.

Another green initiative of the Nature Club was the tree plantation.

In the year 2015-2016, 102 students were registered for the International Award for Young People. Out of which 35 students qualified for Bronze level, 40 for silver and 16 for gold level. Seven students of Gold award were selected to attend the annual gold award ceremony in New Delhi in July 2016.

Under Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, a cleanliness drive was organized and our boys and girls carried placards to sensitise people about the importance of cleanliness and also cleaned the area starting from school main gate to Garkhal and the Garkhal market. A group of Social welfare students carried out ground cleaning and levelling work to make a badminton court for the children of Subathu orphanage.

Another group of students spent quality time at Children home (Shantiniketan) at Dagshai.

On Saturdays /Sundays, volunteers from Upper and Lower Six teach the students of Govt. Primary School and also the children of support staff, under the Child Education wing of SUPW.
Workshops on ‘Best Practices in Nursing’ and ‘Evidence Based Nursing Practices’ was conducted for Hospital Paramedical Staff by Assistant Chief of Nursing from Fortis Hospital Mohali.

As part of our Corporate Social Responsibility, the School Health Club, conducts various activities with an aim to integrate the youth with the mainstream of society. The School has taken up the responsibility to empower the children and staff of local Govt. Schools around Sanawar, with essentials of Basic First Aid and CPR.

The Health Club arranged Fund Raisers during the term and has collected approx. Rs 71000/-. This is being used for providing necessary items to Cancer and Children’s Wards of IGMC Shimla, the destitute and orphans, and in Erosion and Waste Management Work, including tree plantation, within the School.

Our Children have been taking an active part in Round Square activities.

We participated in an International Conference in Singapore, an International Conference in Indore, a Service Project in Gwalior, a Regional Conference in Chandigarh and the Regional Service Project in Ladakh.

Long educational cum cultural exchanges ranging from 4 to 8 weeks to Round Square schools and other leading public schools in the UK, US, South Africa, Thailand and Australia continued this year as well. New exchange with Lakefield College, Canada also commenced this year. In all 16 students from our school have availed this opportunity and we are
hosting 09 students in return this term. Three teachers from our school Mrs. Priya Dhillon, Ms. Ashali Solomon and Mrs. Nitya Chopra went on a teacher exchange for three weeks to Fessenden School, USA and Penryn College, South Africa this year. In return we hosted three students from these schools in March. 10 students and 02 exchange teachers from The Blake School, USA were hosted by us this year and we are also sending our group there this month.

Ladies and gentlemen from this year Annual Sports System was introduced which is running successfully. We organised Badminton Coaching Camp for IPSC Teams for National School Games for Boys & Girls U-14, 17 & 19 in the months of January & April, respectively. Abhijeet Raman & Aditya Ranjan represented IPSC Team in National School Badminton Championship held at Aurangabad in January.

We remained overall state champions by winning 10 Gold, 15 Silver & 22 Bronze Medals in Boys & Girls categories in HP State Gymnastic Championship. Shivam Sharma, Karan Dahiya, Yash Wardhan, Rahil Nazir, Ada Kohli, Sonam Wangmo & Zoya Raj Sing represented CBSE Gymnastics Team in National School games held at Hyderabad.

We were the winners of the Maj. Jagpal Memorial Sub Jr Girls Basketball Tournament at Pinegrove Subathu. Our Jr. Girls Basketball Team won the Auckland House School’s Basketball Inter School Tournament & was runners-up in HP State Jr. Championship.
Yadhuveer Singh Thakur & Pavit Sidhu have been selected to represent HP State in National basketball Championship.

We were the Runners Up in Maj. Goldstein T-20 Cricket Tournament held at BCS.

Aryaman Kohli represented Team India in the World Taekwondo Hanmadang Championship -2016 held in South Korea from 6th to 8th August, 2016.

Shubham Mahajan has been selected to represent IPSC T.T. team in the National School Games.

Sanawar Squash Sub Jr, Jr & Sr teams won the overall team championship in Squash Triangular Series held at The Doon School between Sanawar, Doon & Welham Boys Schools. Ashwin Krishnan won the Jr. Championship in the tri-series.

In swimming, Sanawar’s Girls Swimming Team comprising of 18 girls participated in Inter School Swimming Competition held at Wynberg-Allen School, Mussoorie in four categories, Sub Junior, Junior, Intermediate & Senior and won 50 medals (14 Gold, 20 Silver & 16 Bronze). Also Team Sanawar secured overall Runners –Up position. Sanawar hosted the 1st inter school swimming competition for boys & girls in 4 age groups (Electron, Atoms, Jr & Sr) on 13th & 14th August. Other than the host school, Wynberg-Allen School, The Doon School, Pinegrove School, Kasiga School & VDJS Hissar participated in the competition. With 23 Gold, 26 Silver & 23 Bronze medals Sanawar won the 2nd & the 3rd positions in Girls
& Boys Team Championships, respectively. Pavit Sidhu was declared the best swimmer in the Girls Atoms age group.

In shooting, Sanawar’s Shooting Team comprising of 32 girls & 24 boys participated in Solan District Shooting Championship from 13th to 15th August and bagged 11 - Bronze, 10 Silver and 11 Gold medals. Also, our shooting team participated in HP State Shooting Championship from 26th to 29th August and bagged 09 - Bronze, 09 - Silver and 21 Gold medals. Out of the 42 shooters in state championship 18 have qualified for North Zone Shooting Championship which is being held at Delhi from 2nd October.

Iqbal J Oberoi and Abhimanyu J Oberoi, attempted the 17,400 feet high Friendship peak in the Pir Panjal area and Iqbal reached the summit on the 22nd June. Abhimanyu reached a height of 15,500 feet.

Six NCC cadets participated in CATC (Combined Annual Training Camp) at Solan this term. Shivam Sharma, Shivam Ahlawat and Sonam Wangmo have been selected for next level of Pre-Republic Day Camp to be held at Solan from 5th to 14th October.

School’s Development Plan – Areas of Intervention:

1. Curriculum review for classes V to VIII and introduction of best practices in teaching and learning
2. Review and restructure the School’s students selection process
3. Review and enhance Staff Professional Development opportunities
4. Review and up-grade academic, pastoral and staff residential infrastructure
5. Review and up-grade technology, communication and safety and security
6. Review and strengthen the fiscal planning and governance
7. Review and streamline staff recruitment, remuneration and promotion policies

The concept of the School Council was initiated this term. This is our small step towards promoting democratic dialogue within the community and to encourage participation of students in decision making. The Council has met twice this term and has discussed and debated on issues such as bullying and harassment, judicious use and management of water, garbage disposal, importance of self-discipline to name a few.

Talking of self-discipline, we at Sanawar have embarked on an ambitious but not an impossible task of self-disciplining ourselves. September 21 was a red letter day in the history of this School. The Sanawarians decided to take this challenge head on. The day began with no rouser bell, no Matron or the Housemaster breathing down one’s neck to wake you up, no bell to indicate the beginning or the end of classes and no bell or bugle to announce the lining up for meals. Did it work, yes ladies and gentlemen, it did. We continued doing so for the rest of the week. It is a tough challenge we have taken upon ourselves but knowing the Sanawarian grit and determination, we are confident we will succeed.

Batch of 66 has decided to help the School in taking up a much awaited project – a covered passage for the PD children from PD to the SBoP.

Thank you Batch of 66.
If the proverbial ‘Battle of Waterloo’ was won in the play fields of Eton, then the ‘Battle of Basantar’ was probably won in the playing fields of Sanawar. In his article titled ‘The School that probably won the battle of Basantar’, in the magazine Fauji India, Sagat Shaunik informs that there were seven Sanawarians in the Shakargarh sector, where the Battle of Basantar was fought. While 2/Lt Arun Khetarpal was given nation’s highest war time gallantry award the Param Vir Chakra, two other Sanawarians were honoured with Maha Vir Chakras, one with a Vir Chakra and two received mention-in-despatches. Today we remember Arun Khetarpal for his supreme sacrifice and moreover, as his batch gets together to celebrate their golden jubilee.

The year gone by has been a successful one and for me these last five months have been very exciting and satisfying. I take this opportunity to thank the LSSS, BoGs, staff, students, parents, OSs and all stakeholders and well-wishers of The Lawrence School Sanawar for their help and support extended to me during this period. Special thanks to Dr. Subhash Chandra Khuntia, Chairman, BoGs who has now been appointed as the Chief Secretary in his home cadre Karnataka. We thank him for his constant support and guidance.

With this, ladies and gentlemen, I conclude my speech.

May I now request our most worthy Chief Guest Mr. Shiv Nadar to address us all.