



# CHRONICLE

*The Modern School Weekly*

MODERN SCHOOL, BARAKHAMBA ROAD

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Est. in 1920



'Gender equality as smart development: Investing in Women for Inclusive Growth'

Unlocking GDP: "Her Inclusion, Our Revolution"

Modern Barakhamba hosted a Youth Outreach Talk on *Gender Equality as Smart Development*, with Ms Mandakini Kaul, Regional Coordinator, World Bank South Asia, as the keynote speaker. Distinguished guests included Ms Ambika Pant, Secretary, Board of Trustees, Dr Vijay Datta, Principal, Modern School, and Ms Meera Malhotra.

Students and faculty from the branches of Modern actively participated as Ms Kaul underscored that no country has yet achieved gender equality, highlighting how women's under representation in the workforce curtails productivity and GDP growth. She presented a **data-driven analysis** of the global gender gap, emphasizing that **none of the 190 countries worldwide have achieved full gender equality**. She explained how the **underutilization of women in the**

*What's New  
at Modern?*

1. **GENDER  
EQUALITY  
OUTREACH  
PROGRAMME**  
(Pg. 1&2)
2. **ROUND  
SQUARE  
REPORT** (2&3)
3. **BHAGWANT  
SINGH AWARD**  
(Pg.4)

workforce limits productivity and GDP growth, particularly in rural India, where women sustain farming & small enterprises. Highlighting barriers such as **limited access to credit, weak legal frameworks, and cultural norms**, She urged **policy innovation** to promote women’s leadership and entrepreneurship.

Ms Ambika Pant inspired students with personal reflections on gender disparity, calling for a **mindset shift among youth**. The interactive session concluded with a lively **Q&A round**, reinforcing that **gender equality is no merely a social issue but a critical economic imperative** driving inclusive and sustainable development. Students explored whether gender equality is viewed as an economic investment or just a social responsibility. Legal gaps, cultural barriers, and undervaluation of unpaid work were discussed also added inspiring reflections on shifting youth mindsets to drive change. The interactive session enabled students to engage with global evidence, case studies, and policy insights, showing gender equality as both a moral imperative and a catalyst for sustainable growth. It broadened their vision of grassroots action, policy innovation, and youth-led initiatives can together transform societies.

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**“From Jamnagar to the World – Modern with Vision, Values, and Voice.”**



**“Modern Barakhamba Takes Jamnagar by Storm —Ideas High, Impact Higher!”**

Modern School, proudly participated in the prestigious Round Square Conference hosted by Dhirubhai Ambani International School at the Reliance Campus, Jamnagar, from **10–13 September 2025**. Centred on the theme **EKTA – Encouraging Knowledge, Tolerance, and Acceptance**, the conference brought together a six-member Modern School delegation comprising **Arhan Dayal (8<sup>th</sup> B)**, **Deishna Kapila (8<sup>th</sup> D)**, **Samaira K Puri (9<sup>th</sup> A)**, **Alaisa Gupta (9<sup>th</sup> D)**, **Nivaan Joneja (9<sup>th</sup> F)**, and **Ojas Khandelwal (9<sup>th</sup> F)**, accompanied by **Ms. Sasha Banhotra** and guided by **RS Coordinator, Ms. Shalini Dahiya..**

### **Day 1 – Inspiration and Introspection**

The conference commenced with a powerful and deeply moving keynote address by acclaimed filmmaker Vibha Bakshi, who spoke passionately about gender equality, resilience, and the transformative strength of courageous leadership. Her address set the intellectual and emotional tone for the days ahead, encouraging delegates to question societal patterns and engage in meaningful activism.

This was followed by **Baraza sessions**, where students from diverse cultural backgrounds collaborated in enriching dialogues on unity, conflict resolution, and shared human responsibility. These cross-cultural conversations nurtured understanding, empathy, and respected pillars of the Round Square ethos.

### **Day 2 – Sustainability and Innovation**

Offered an immersive exploration of Reliance’s **bio-energy** and **solar power facilities**, culminating in an exuberant **Garba celebration**.

### **Day 3 – Lessons in Compassion at Vantara**

It took students to **Vantara**, the renowned animal rescue and rehabilitation centre, where they experienced meaningful interactions with wildlife, deepening their understanding of compassion and coexistence.

### **Day 4 – Reflection, Responsibility, and Vision**

The final day at Vantara Nivas centered on reflective workshops that encouraged delegates to examine their role in global sustainability and leadership. Students explored the Ambani family’s enduring vision of environmental accountability, innovation, and social responsibility. These discussions helped delegates connect personal agencies with wider systemic change- a core learning outcome of the conference.

### **Modern’s Contribution – YARI**

As part of the conference, the delegation showcased **YARI – the Yamuna River Initiative**, a research-based project presenting pragmatic solutions to contemporary environmental challenges affecting the river ecosystem. Their presentation highlighted scientific analysis, actionable policy recommendations, and student-driven commitment to sustainable futures- earning appreciation for its depth, relevance, and originality.

### **A Transformative Leadership Journey**

The Round Square Conference 2025 proved to be far more than an academic gathering. It was a powerful journey of exposure, reflection, and evolution-strengthening students’ global consciousness and reinforcing the importance of tolerance, collaboration, and responsible leadership.

The Modern School delegates returned with enriched perspectives, lasting friendships, valuable international exposure, and a renewed determination to contribute meaningfully to society and the world.

## SARDAR BHAGWANT SINGH AWARD: FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH (2025–2026)

“In pursuit of knowledge lies the essence of progress”



Highlights from Sardar Bhagwant Singh Award held at HLL Hall



During the Academic Year of Modern (2025 -2026), a remarkable **sixty-two research projects** were submitted by **seventy-five scholars of Class 11<sup>th</sup>** for consideration under the prestigious **Sardar Bhagwant Singh Award for Excellence in Research** - an honour that celebrates intellectual inquiry and innovation.

The **First Prize** was meritoriously awarded to **Zara Vickers** for her insightful project titled “*AI in Healthcare Industry*” and to **Aryaveer Singh** for his commendable work “*Behind the Bite: Uncovering Gig Economy in India*”.

The **Second Prize** was jointly conferred upon **Ishaan Singh** and **Rahini Bansal** for their analytical study “*Psychology of Indian Voter*”,

The **Third Prize** was secured by **Moksha Dhian Kochhar** for her perceptive research “*The Contemporary Rejections of Feminism*” and **Rhythmia Rewal** for her critical exploration “*Shakti: Analyzing the Gender Gap in STEM*”,