



CHRONICLE

The Modern School Weekly

MODERN SCHOOL, BARAKHAMBA ROAD

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A memorable encounter that connected young learners with India's journey to the stars.

From Classroom to Cosmos:
INTERACTION WITH GROUP CAPTAIN SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA

*What's New
at Modern?*

On 13 January 2026, students of Modern School, Omyra Katpalia, Manit Kapoor, and Nachiketa K. Dhashana were accorded a rare and inspiring opportunity to interact with Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, distinguished Indian Air Force fighter pilot and astronaut, at the New Delhi World Book Fair 2026 held at Bharat Mandapam.

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla has etched his name in history as the **first Indian to visit the International Space Station (ISS) in over 41 years**, having served as the **Mission Pilot of Axiom Mission 4**. During the interactive session, he elaborated on the wide range of **scientific experiments conducted in**

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collaboration with ISRO and leading Indian institutions, including research on the **cognitive effects of screen exposure, microbial adaptation in space, muscle atrophy, and crop resilience under microgravity conditions.**

He further highlighted that the mission offered invaluable hands-on experience in **crew-ground coordination, real-time health telemetry, medical and psychological conditioning of astronauts, international crew integration, and precise execution of space-based experiments.** These insights, he noted, would have a **direct and lasting impact on India's Human Spaceflight Programme,** particularly in the areas of **astronaut preparedness, safety validation, and future mission planning.**

The mission was successfully launched on its **third attempt on 25 June 2025.** The spacecraft **Grace** docked with the ISS on **26 June 2025 at 10:31:47 UTC** for a two-week stay. After spending **18 days aboard the ISS,** Grace undocked on **14 July 2025 at 11:15 UTC,** beginning its **22-hour return journey to Earth,** and safely splashed down in the **Pacific Ocean off the coast of San Diego on 15 July 2025 at 09:31:36 UTC.**

Axiom Mission 4 was historic in multiple respects—it marked the **first instance of astronauts from India, Poland, and Hungary flying to the ISS,** and represented the **first human spaceflight for each of these nations in over four decades** which a remarkable interaction left a profound impression on the students, inspiring them to **dream boldly, explore careers in science, aviation, and space exploration, and aspire to reach far beyond the horizon.**

Sportability: Beyond Boundaries: Cheering Our Champions



When courage takes the pitch and dreams wear no limits.

On 14 January 2026, Modern School, Barakhamba Road was transformed into a space of reflection and resolve, where sport transcended competition to become a language of belief, dignity, and collective purpose. Under the banner of *Sportability*, the school hosted a dignified and deeply moving send-off for the Delhi Girls' Cricket Team for the Blind.

Having trained rigorously on the school campus, the team now prepares to represent Delhi at the National Cricket Tournament for the Blind, to be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from 17–21 January 2026.

The gathering was graced by Ms Ambika Pant, Secretary, Board of Trustees, Modern Schools; Dr Vijay Datta, Principal, Modern School; and distinguished members of the para-sports fraternity. Their presence lent the occasion both gravitas and warmth, reaffirming the institution's sustained commitment to inclusive excellence.

A moment of particular resonance was the felicitation of Ms Anekha Thakur, a member of the Women's T20 World Cup-winning team for the blind. Her recognition stood as a quiet yet powerful testament to excellence shaped by discipline, resilience, and an unwavering faith in possibility. It reminded all present that limitations are often social constructs, while courage and determination are boundless.

The addresses delivered that evening were marked not by rhetoric, but by conviction. Speakers reflected on the transformative power of sport—its capacity to build confidence, foster solidarity, and challenge perceptions. They reaffirmed the ideals of inclusion, dignity, and equal opportunity, underscoring the belief that true progress lies in creating spaces where ability is recognised without qualification or prefix.

The ethos of *Sportability* that sport must remain accessible, empowering, and universal-echoed through every word

As the players were felicitated and presented with commemorative shirts, the gesture carried meaning beyond ceremony. It symbolised trust placed in their talent, encouragement for the journey ahead, and pride in the paths they are forging for future athletes. Applause filled the hall not merely as appreciation, but as affirmation, a collective acknowledgment of their perseverance and promise.

The evening concluded with a group photograph, an image that lingered as more than a record of the occasion. It captured a moment suspended in purpose: young athletes poised at the threshold of national competition, carrying with them not only the aspirations of a team or a city, but the enduring promise of a more inclusive sporting future. In that frame stood not just cricketers preparing for a tournament, but ambassadors of resilience embodying the spirit of a community that believes, unequivocally, that sport belongs to all.

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Celebrating the contribution of Our Student Clubs

Where Passion Meets Purpose

From planning events to building strong communities the clubs have created unforgettable experiences for everyone on campus. In recognition of their service and contribution, club members were awarded badges as a mark of appreciation. The school celebrates the passion, commitment and achievements of these clubs that make the campus dynamic and inspiring.

Fine Arts Club



Dance Club



Music Club



Nature Club



Interact Club



Graphics Club



Photography Club



Equestrian Club

