



CHRONICLE

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MODERN SCHOOL, BARAKHAMBHA ROAD

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From Bricks to Bonds: Building Classrooms and Connections in Nubra Valley



The Ladakh Service Project 2025 was an extraordinary initiative jointly undertaken by Modern School Barakhamba Road and The Scindia School, Gwalior. This collaborative effort exemplified the spirit of service, adventure, and cultural exchange, as students and teachers came together to contribute meaningfully to the remote region of Sumoor, Nubra Valley in Ladakh.

Our journey began with our arrival in Leh, where our first two days were dedicated to acclimatising to the high-altitude conditions. We were graciously hosted at the Ladakh Residency by Mr. Wangchuk, whose warm hospitality immediately made us feel at home despite the stark difference in climate and altitude. These two days were crucial in helping us adapt to the thin air, with our group spending time exploring the local market, bonding with each other, and mentally preparing ourselves for the days ahead. On the third day, we made our way to Lamdon Model School in Sumoor, Nubra Valley, which would be our home and worksite for the next eight days. This school has been a beacon of education for children in the remote Nubra region, and our goal was to contribute to its infrastructure by constructing a new UKG (Upper Kindergarten) classroom.

The construction work was both physically demanding and immensely fulfilling. Every day, we woke up early, laced up our boots, and headed to the worksite. Our primary task involved picking up and carrying heavy bricks to the construction area. What began with a modest pile of around 100 bricks soon turned into a mountain of 600-700 bricks, but our enthusiasm and shared service motive gave us the energy to persist.



Apart from carrying bricks, we also ventured into the neighbouring areas to collect 'taalu' sticks, essential for the building framework. Using saws and cutting machines, we processed these sticks into usable sizes — a task that tested our patience and coordination.

The mud work was a collective effort of teamwork and perseverance. Standing in lines, we passed 'taslas' — shallow metal pans filled with mud — from the labourers to the construction site. This chain of hands working in unison became a symbol of our dedication. We also helped in pasting cement on the walls, which required careful separation of cement from larger pebbles to ensure a smooth finish. By the end of each day, our clothes would be splattered with mud and cement, but the sight of the classroom gradually taking shape made every effort worthwhile.



One of the highlights of our trip was a visit to the iconic Siachen Base Camp. Standing there gave us goosebumps as we learnt about Operation Meghdoot and the challenges faced by our brave soldiers who guard the world's highest battlefield under unimaginably harsh conditions. Stories of soldiers caught in avalanches and the poignant tale of OP Baba Temple, dedicated to Col. Om Prakash who is believed to continue watching over the troops even after his death, left us with a deep sense of respect and reverence for our armed forces.



Once the classroom construction was complete, the school community gave us a warm farewell with traditional dances, art, and even an archery competition. We too performed to express gratitude, before ending the evening with Ladakhi food, speeches, and emotional goodbyes.

With the project done, we set off on a trek through Nubra Valley. Starting with an 11 km walk from Agham village, we camped in tents at 12,000 feet, discovering the challenges of remote life—like scrambling for the only rock with mobile signal!

The next day, we climbed to 14,200 feet to a monastery overlooking the valley, its serene beauty rewarding our effort. A unique part of the trek was adjusting to Ladakhi toilets—an environmental necessity we accepted with humour as part of the learning experience.

The next day was the toughest—harsh weather, strong winds, and exhaustion pushed us to 15,200 feet. Rain and gusts forced a brief 50-foot car ride for safety, but the rest was sheer grit. At camp, we huddled in sleeping bags, warming up and bracing for the biggest challenge ahead.

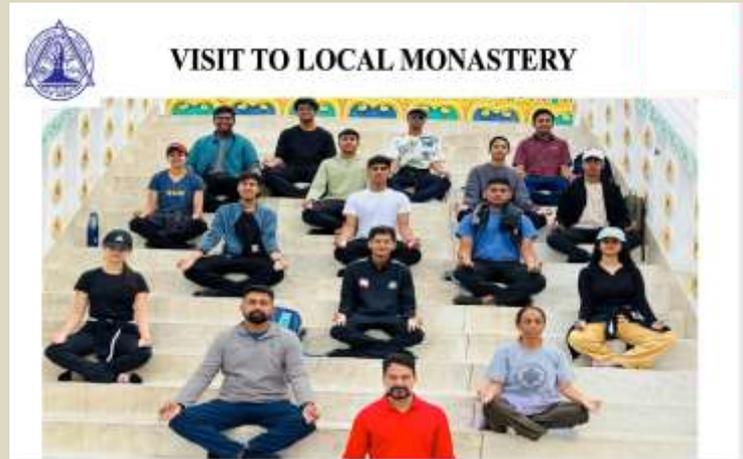
Our final stretch was Wari La Pass at 17,459 feet. Told we'd proceed at our own risk, our hearts raced but group spirit prevailed. Battling snow and wind, we took breaks to recover and motivate each other. Reaching the pass was overwhelming—snow peaks, blue skies, and countless photos etched the triumph forever.

Our last base camp was set up at Shakti village, where we were thrilled to find proper network connectivity and reconnect with our families. A hearty dinner cooked by our teachers and peers brought us together for one last night under the Ladakhi stars, reminiscing about the journey that had tested and transformed us.

On our final day, we woke up at 6 am and set out for an early start. Our first destination was the breathtaking Pangong Lake. As the sun rose, its rays danced on the endless expanse of water, creating a view so magnificent that words fell short. After soaking in the beauty of Pangong, we proceeded to Thiksay Monastery, Leh's largest monastery, where we marvelled at the architecture and spiritual serenity.

Before heading back to Leh, we visited Lamdon Model School in Shey, last year's project site, which reminded us of the lasting impact of such efforts. The day ended at Leh market, where we picked up souvenirs as tokens of this journey.

Returning to Delhi was bittersweet — filled with nostalgia, gratitude, and pride. The Ladakh Service Project 2025 was more than a school trip; it was a lesson in teamwork, resilience, cultural exchange, and the joy of giving back. We carried home not just memories of landscapes and treks, but the warmth of people, friendships, and the reminder that true service knows no boundaries.



Celebrating Excellence: Amaara Ahuja – King Constantine Awardee 2024-25

Amaara Ahuja (12-G), recipient of the **King Constantine Award 2024-2025**, exemplifies the Round Square IDEALS of Internationalism, Democracy, Environmentalism, Adventure, Leadership, and Service.

From **building classrooms in Ladakh** to **leading international events**, Amaara has shown resilience, initiative, and creativity. Her leadership combines vision with empathy, inspiring those around her to contribute meaningfully.

This award not only celebrates her achievements but also highlights the values of courage, compassion, and responsibility that she consistently upholds.



Achievements at All India IPSC Boys Chess Championship (1st – 5th July 2025)

From 1st to 5th July 2025, our boys represented the school at the All India IPSC Boys Chess Championship hosted by Genesis Global School, Noida.

It was a proud moment as the U-19 team secured the 2nd Runner-up trophy, while the U-14 team lifted the Winner's trophy. 🏆

Our young chess players — Kiaan Aggarwal (8-B), Krishiv Singhal (8-A), Samarth Mangla (8-H), Aaryaveer Kochhar (7), and Ahmad Saeed (8-F) — played with determination and confidence throughout the tournament.

In individual events, Kiaan Aggarwal won gold and Krishiv Singhal won bronze, with both qualifying for the SGFI Nationals. A fantastic achievement indeed!

Modern School Shines at Delhi State Aquatics Championship (4th – 7th July 2025)

The Delhi State Aquatics Championship, held at Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Swimming Complex from 4th to 7th July 2025, was a resounding success for Modern School. Our swimmers won an impressive 30 medals – 5 Gold, 7 Silver, and 18 Bronze.

Modern School also secured the Overall Boys Team Championship, while Arnav Tyagi (11-E) was awarded the Best Swimmer Trophy.

Key Achievements:

U-19 Boys: Arnav Tyagi – 4 Gold, 2 Silver, 1 Bronze; Tanush Jhanji – 2 Silver, 5 Bronze; Tanay Jhanji – 1 Silver, 1 Bronze; Kiann Uppal – 1 Silver, 1 Bronze

U-14 Boys: Samraj Rathi – 1 Gold, 1 Silver, 3 Bronze; Veer Rathi – 2 Bronze; Adrij Chauhan – 1 Bronze; Rannvikram Sinh Rathore – 1 Bronze

U-19 Girls: Kshreejaa Agarwaal – 1 Bronze

U-14 Girls: Amyra Patni – 3 Bronze; Sara Sharma – 1 Bronze

Beyond the medals, the championship reflected the team spirit, determination, and grit of our swimmers—a truly proud moment for Modern School!



Don't put a limit on anything. The more you dream, the farther you get.” – Michael Phelps