

Now, you too
can name
roads in Dubai



Understanding
the stakes in
UK election



Pandya, Pant's
return crucial for
Team India

**KATE
WINSLET
FETED WITH
LIFETIME
AWARD AT
MUNICH
FESTIVAL**



FRIDAY JULY 5, 2024, DHU AL HIJJA 29, 1445
WEEKEND EDITION

gulfnews.com

GULF NEWS



Scan for
our social
media

Summer
Offer*

ABC

CARGO, COURIER,
SHIPPING, LOGISTICS

800 916
www.abccargo.ae

New UAE astronauts inspire students

DUO BRIEFED ON INNOVATIVE PROJECTS AFTER OPENING SPACE LAB AT A GEMS SCHOOL IN DUBAI

DUBAI

BY SAJILA SASENDRAN
Chief Reporter

The UAE's youngest and newest astronauts yesterday inspired a group of Dubai school students chasing space dreams.

Nora Al Matrooshi and Mohammad Al Mulla, the first Arabs to graduate from a Nasa course earlier this year, inaugurated a space lab at GEMS International School – Al Khail and interacted with students in the presence of Dr Aisha Miran, director-general of Dubai's Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA).

The astronauts were briefed by students about the projects they do in the lab that is designed to look and feel like a space capsule on Mars.

Pointing out an image of the human brain displayed at the event, Al Matrooshi said: "It's actually the core of human space-flight." The mechanical engineer told students that humans are at the heart of all achievements.

'Very hard question'

Al Mulla, a former Dubai Police helicopter pilot, praised the resources made available to the students. "One of our goals is to inspire the next generation and I feel like here in the UAE now the next generation is in safe hands," he said, commending the facilities available to the young generation.

While interacting with the students, they faced what Al Mulla termed "a very hard question" from Stepan Litvichenko.

The Grade 10 student asked if astronauts of his generation



Students
share space
dreams with
UAE's new
astronauts

■ UAE astronauts Nora Al Matrooshi and Mohammad Al Mulla watch students demonstrate their projects at the space lab of GEMS International School – Al Khail after inaugurating it.

Ahmad Alotbi/Gulf News

One of our goals is to inspire the next generation and I feel like here in the UAE now the next generation is in safe hands."

Mohammad Al Mulla
| UAE astronaut



would fly to Mars. Al Mulla first asked Stepan about his age. When he replied he was 16, he patted his back and said: "Your grandson will go!"

Speaking to *Gulf News* later, Stepan said his dream was to become an astronaut and carry on the legacy of his great-grandfather who, he said, was a

WHAT'S INSIDE THE SPACE LAB?

Learning in the space lab of GEMS International School – Al Khail (GIS) in Dubai covers key topics including agriculture on Mars (hydroponics and AI), metaverse 3D game design for social interaction, AI-infused robotic pets for Mars, driverless cars for Martian transport, DIY space repairs, as well as robotic arms, wearable haptics, and gesture controls for space work.

From the next academic year, students of Grade 9 and 10 can choose the space lab as an elective option. — S.S.

flight engineer who worked on the USSR's first rocket.

Simon Herbert, Head of School and CEO of GIS, said: "We shall work in partnership with many other schools in Dubai on the integration of aviation, aeronautics, and space as part of a progressive and dynamic curriculum."

Vikas Singh, Head of Secondary Design and Director of the Centre of Excellence for Aviation, Aeronautics, and Space at GIS, said: "The space lab aims to equip students with the skills to solve real-world Mars problems, and preparing them to be the pioneers of tomorrow."

Dr Saima Rana, Group Chief Education Officer of GEMS Education, said: "Empowering students to explore and take risks, GIS is at the cutting edge of technology, sciences, and problem-solving."