Nihal Swadi
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EDUCATION & ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Ascend International School, Mumbai, India

- Currently pursuing the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (DP2/Grade 12) with subjects Chemistry HL, Psychology HL & Economics HL; Math AA SL, English SL & Spanish SL. **2026–2027**
- Scored 50/56 in MYP Grade 10 Examinations, well above the global median of 37.77. **2025**

Standardised Test Scores

- IELTS Academic: Overall Band 8.0 **October 2026**

Awards & Honours

- Achieved 'High Honours' in Grade 11 for a grade average of 6.0 or higher and meeting performance, work-ethic, conduct, and attendance criteria. **2025–2026**
- Achieved 'Honours' in Grade 10, for a grade average of 5.5 or higher and meeting other criteria. **2024–2025**
- Achieved 'Honours' in Grade 9, for a grade average of 5.5 or higher and meeting other criteria. **2023–2024**
- Ranked 1st in the entire grade in final exams in IB Math AA SL and IB Psychology HL, Grade 11. **2025–2026**

Online Course

Social Psychology: Understanding Human Behavior | Columbia University, New York **June 2026**

- Selected among 44 applicants through an essay-based application; unable to attend due to a medical emergency.

Songwriting Workshop | Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA **June 2025**

- Completed an intensive one-week programme developing skills in composition, lyric writing, melody development, and music production alongside students from varied cultural and musical backgrounds.
- Applied these techniques to develop original music; participated in several open-mic nights. **2024–2025**

Extended Essay | Ascend International School **2025–Present**

- Research question: “To what extent can music therapy help the development of social communication skills for children with autism spectrum disorder?”

INDEPENDENT PROJECT

IB Middle Years (MYP) Personal Music Project **2024–2025**

- Achieved the highest possible score of 7, recognised as the best Personal Project in school; supervised by Mr Piyush Kuthethoor (DP Economics / MYP Integrated Humanities) and Mr Kalim Khan (Head of Mathematics Department).
- Conceptualised and independently produced an original track combining songwriting, music production, and AI, writing the lyrics and composing the melody; used SoundVerse AI Studio for high-fidelity vocal replication with accurate pitch, and produced, edited, and published the track using GarageBand.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Economics of Manufacturing

Internship, Hikal Ltd., Mumbai, India **June 2025**

- Interned with Hikal, a Mumbai-founded pharmaceutical and speciality chemicals company that manufactures active pharmaceutical ingredients and intermediates for global life-sciences clients.
- Learned how medicines are manufactured safely and efficiently at scale, and how waste disposal is regulated.
- As an independent project, tracked packaging waste over two weeks and calculated the cost differential between recycling and disposal, finding recycling roughly 8% cheaper, a figure that becomes significant at scale.
- Through conversations with plant teams, identified that whether packaging gets sorted for recycling often comes down to workers' daily habits as much as economics.

Industry Observerships **July 2025**

- Spent a day each at three manufacturers to test whether the Hikal recycling economics held across industries:
- **GMM Pfaudler (glass-lined reactors & process engineering):** Observed that well-maintained reactors produce fewer bad batches, reinforcing that preventing waste through maintenance is usually cheaper than recycling or disposal; seeded the idea of a local-language preventive maintenance booklet for equipment operators.
- **Simmonds Marshall (automotive fasteners):** Parts that fail quality checks cannot be resold or reused, clarifying when recycling pays and when prevention is the only real option.
- **Ador Fontech (welding consumables & industrial reclamation):** A business built on reclaiming worn machine parts rather than scrapping them, showing that recycling can be a source of profit rather than a cost to minimise.

Investment Research

Research Intern | Ayra Ventures, Mumbai **June 2026 – July 2026**

- Worked directly with the Founder and Managing Partner of Ayra Ventures, an early-stage, consumer-focused private equity firm investing in Indian consumer brands, on an active transaction and a firm-wide research priority.
- Conducted review-based analysis of D2C bakery brand Crème Castle across Reddit, Instagram, and Swiggy, benchmarking it against competitors including Theobroma and Cheesecake & Co.; the one-page analysis featured prominently in the investment memo and Investment Committee discussion of a deal that was eventually cleared.
- Built Ayra's first consolidated reference database of 126 Indian listed consumer companies using screener.in, compiling revenue, market cap, sales multiples, and EBITDA margins across fashion, jewellery, beauty, and quick commerce to support valuation benchmarking and exit assumptions.

- Synthesised cross-sector findings comparing new-age versus legacy consumer companies and presented them to the wider team, helping the firm settle on which sectors to focus its investment thesis and deal sourcing around.
- Authored and presented a one-pager on pet-care brand Muttley Crew covering market sizing, competitive landscape, and comparable funding rounds; prepared diligence questions ahead of a founder meeting.

BUSINESS MASTERCLASS SERIES

Business Masterclass Series **September 2026–Present**

- Conceptualised and executed a three-part series bringing entrepreneurs and business leaders into school to speak to students in Grades 10–12. Sourced the speakers, built the programming, and coordinated each speaker's topics with the BM teacher to complement classroom learning.
- **Speakers:** Sandeep Murthy (Co-founder & Managing Partner, Lightbox); Ketki Paranjpe (Partner, Ayra Ventures); Garima Deveshwar-Bahl (Co-founder, The Foundery; Author, *The Unartificial Leader*).

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES

House Captain, Yellow House | Ascend International School **2025–2026**

- Led **Yellow House to 1st place**, winning the House Cup with 3,200 points, a margin of approximately 150 points, after a last-place finish the previous year; Ubuntu, Sports Day, and the Band competition were decisive.
- **Ubuntu Cup:** Led Yellow House to victory in the school's inter-house Humanities competition, recruiting participants from Grades 6 to 11 (DP1) for their skill sets and coordinating the team across grades. Personally competed in all Senior events, placing 1st in Filmmaking, 2nd in Mumbai Mosaic, and 2nd in the Senior Quiz.
- **Sports Day:** Led Yellow House to 2nd place, only 30 points behind Blue House, despite fielding 24 participants against roughly 35 for each of the other three houses; competed only in the High Jump due to an injury.
- Captained 7 events, personally competing in 6, and served as Yellow House ambassador in a house of 50 students, encouraging participation and coordinating teams.

House Vice Captain | Ascend International School **2024–2025**

- Elected through a house-wide vote; progressed to House Captain the following year.

Co-Captain, School Basketball Team **2024–Present**

- Shares leadership of the school team in interschool tournaments alongside the IB Diploma Programme.

MUSIC **2013–Present**

- "How Do I Know," original single released on Spotify and YouTube at age 12, inspired by the COVID-19 pandemic; accumulated 3,000 views and streams. **2021**
- Passed Trinity College London Grade 3 Singing with Distinction. **2018–2021**
- Self-taught on piano, saxophone, and guitar; has written and produced 4 original pop and R&B songs, one on Spotify.
- Learned the saxophone in 3 months to perform 'La Vie en Rose' as vocalist and saxophonist at the annual concert.
- Performed as a vocalist, saxophonist, pianist, and guitarist at roughly 10 school concerts (Grades 4–10) and 4 outside performances, plus multiple open-mic nights.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

Basketball **2023–Present**

- Selected as one of 12 students across India to represent ISSO India at the ISF World School Basketball Championship 2026 in Zlatibor, Serbia. **June 2026**
- Founding member of Ascend International School's Basketball Team. Over three years, competed in 18 interschool tournaments, medalling in every one; named MVP in 2 tournaments and Best Shooter. Competed in four ISSO tournaments.

Track and Field Athletics **2023–2026**

- Won consistent gold and silver medals in the 100m, 200m, and High Jump at school meets; High Jump personal best of 5 ft 4 in.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Fitness Mentor | Salaam Bombay Foundation **August 2026–Present**

- Mentoring Salaam Bombay's Fitness Monitors (aged 17–19), who teach fitness within slum communities, on communication and leadership, and introducing new, engaging fitness routines for their community sessions.
- Participate in Gully Fitness, a community fitness initiative held at a Ganpati pandal.

Fundraiser | Vipla Foundation, Tata Mumbai Marathon **January 2027**

- Registered to run the 10K again for the Vipla Foundation, continuing to raise funds and awareness for children with hearing loss; recruited two classmates to also register and run for Vipla.

Fundraiser | Vipla Foundation **2025**

- Raised ₹1.60 lakh for the Vipla Foundation, a charity providing hearing aids to children with hearing loss, through the Tata Mumbai Marathon in January 2025.
- Raised ₹22,000 to provide Diwali snacks for 220 children with intellectual disabilities and hearing impairments at a Special Care Centre in October 2025.

INTERESTS

- Long-distance running, working out, lifting weights.