

Nihal Swadi
A-6 Ananta, Dr Rajabali Patel Road, Mumbai 400 026, India
+91 86579 06883 | nihalswadi@gmail.com

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**
- Received a predicted score of **[Add score]** based on Class 11 performance. **2026**
- Scored 50/56 in MYP Grade 10 Examinations, well above the global median of 37.77; school and individual subject scores were also well above average. **2025**

Standardised Test Scores

- SAT: **[score – to confirm once taken]**
- IELTS: **[score – to confirm once taken]**

Awards & Honours

- Achieved 'High Honours' in Grade 11, maintaining a grade average of 6.0 or higher, consistent performance across all courses, exemplary work ethic and conduct, and meeting attendance requirements. **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 Math AA SL, Grade 11.
- Ranked 1st in the entire grade in Psychology, Grade 11.
- Achieved the highest possible MYP score of 7 for the Grade 10 Personal Project, recognised as the best Personal Project in school.

Online Course

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

- Selected among 44 applicants through an essay-based application for this summer programme. Unable to attend due to a medical emergency.

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

- Completed an intensive one-week programme at one of the world's leading music institutions.
- Developed skills in composition, lyric writing, melody development, and music production while collaborating with students from a variety of 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

- Conducting an Extended Essay investigating the extent to which music therapy supports the development of social communication skills in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), under the supervision of the school.
- The research question is, "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 on the standard 1–7 MYP scale, earning recognition 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).
- The Personal Project is a major independent capstone completed by MYP students in their final year (Grade 10), internally assessed by school supervisors and externally moderated by the IB to ensure a globally consistent standard.
- Conceptualised and independently executed an original music production project combining songwriting, music production, and artificial intelligence, writing the lyrics, composing the melody, and producing the track.

- Investigated and demonstrated the use of AI voice technology (SoundVerse AI Studio) to achieve high-fidelity vocal replication with accurate pitch, incorporating this into the creative process.
- Researched, experimented, and documented the project's technical and creative development from initial concept through to final recording; produced, edited, and published the final track using GarageBand.

WORK EXPERIENCE

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. It operates five manufacturing facilities across India and holds several international quality certifications.
- Learned how a large pharmaceutical company manufactures medicines at scale and observed the steps involved in keeping production safe, clean, and efficient.
- Observed how the company manages manufacturing waste and the regulatory requirements that govern its disposal.
- As an independent project, tracked packaging waste quantities over two weeks and calculated the cost differential between recycling and disposal, finding recycling to be roughly 8% cheaper, a figure that becomes significant at scale.
- Through conversations with plant teams, identified that whether packaging actually gets sorted for recycling often comes down to workers' daily habits as much as the underlying economics.
- Gained direct exposure to the balance a large manufacturer must strike between output targets, environmental compliance, and recycling and disposal costs.

Observerships

Industry Observerships

July 2025

- **Hikal:** Following the packaging-waste cost project, spent a day each at three manufacturers, an engineering company, a car-parts supplier, and a welding company, to test whether the same recycling economics held across industries.
- **GMM Pfaudler (glass-lined reactors & process engineering):** Observed that well-maintained reactors produce fewer bad batches, and every bad batch means product, packaging, and rework costs are thrown away, reinforcing the Hikal finding that preventing waste through maintenance is usually cheaper than recycling or disposing of it after the fact. The visit seeded the idea of a preventive maintenance booklet in local language for equipment operators, highlighting the long-term cost benefits.
- **Simmonds Marshall (automotive fasteners):** Because a faulty fastener can be dangerous, waste here means parts that fail quality checks and cannot be resold or reused — a pure cost with no recycling upside. Seeing an industry where waste cannot be recovered sharpened the understanding of when recycling pays and when prevention is the only real option.
- **Ador Fontech (welding consumables & industrial reclamation):** Ador's core business is fixing and reclaiming worn machine parts rather than scrapping them. This provided the clearest real-world example of the principle behind the Hikal project, that recycling need not be a cost to minimise but something a business can be built around and profit from.

Investment Research

Research Intern | Ayra Ventures, Mumbai

June 2026 – July 2026

- Ayra Ventures is an early-stage, consumer-focused private equity firm based in Mumbai that invests in emerging Indian consumer brands.
- Worked directly with the firm's Founder and Managing Partner on two live workstreams: an active transaction and a firm-wide research priority.
- Conducted social media and review-based analysis of D2C bakery brand Crème Castle — examining Reddit threads, Instagram activity, and Swiggy reviews, and benchmarking performance against competitors including Theobroma and Cheesecake & Co. — to identify unmet customer expectations and the content formats driving engagement. The one-page analysis featured prominently in Ayra's investment memo and the Investment Committee's discussion, giving the team greater conviction in a deal that was eventually cleared.

- Built Ayra's first consolidated reference database of 126 Indian listed consumer companies (legacy and new-age players) using screener.in, compiling financial metrics such as revenue, market cap, sales multiples, and EBITDA margins across the fashion, jewellery, beauty, and quick commerce categories, to support valuation benchmarking and exit assumptions.
- Synthesised cross-sector findings comparing new-age versus legacy consumer companies on growth, valuation multiples, and market positioning; presented the analysis to the wider team, prompting a discussion that helped the firm settle on which sectors to focus its investment thesis and deal sourcing around.
- Authored and presented a business-style one-pager on pet-care brand Muttley Crew, covering India's pet care market sizing, competitive landscape, and recent 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, particularly helpful for students studying IB Business Management. Sourced the speakers and built the programming. Coordinated each speaker's topics with the BM teacher so sessions complement what students are covering in class at the time.

Masterclass 1: Sandeep Murthy, Co-founder & Managing Partner, Lightbox

Theme: "From Idea to Impact – Building, Scaling and Investing in Successful Businesses"

- Mr Murthy walked students through what makes a business worth building and worth investing in, drawing on his own portfolio to explain how he identifies a real opportunity, what makes a business model work, and what gives a company a lasting edge over competitors.
- He spoke about how businesses grow and scale, using real examples of growth strategy, innovation, and market expansion from his own deals.
- He closed with lessons on leadership and decision-making, building strong teams, managing uncertainty, and what he has learned from both successful and unsuccessful investments.

Masterclass 2: Ketki Paranjpe, Partner, Ayra Ventures

Theme: "The Investor's Lens – What Makes a Business Worth Investing In?"

- Mrs Paranjpe discussed what makes a strong entrepreneur, the qualities investors look for in founders, and how a business builds and sustains competitive advantage.
- She addressed what investors weigh when judging a company's growth potential, common risks and red flags, and what ultimately makes an investor decide to proceed with or walk away from a deal, connecting directly to what IB Business Management students in the audience are studying.

Masterclass 3: Garima Deveshwar-Bahl, Co-founder, The Foundry; Author, The Unartificial Leader

Theme: "The Human Edge – Leadership and Mentorship Skills in the Age of AI"

- Mrs Bahl will focus on leadership: what traits an entrepreneur needs, what good leadership actually looks like in practice, and the specific skills startup founders need as their companies grow.
- She will draw on her book, The Unartificial Leader, to explore which leadership traits remain distinctly human and valuable as AI takes on more of the technical work, a session relevant to both DP Psychology and DP Business Management students.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES

House Captain, Yellow House | Ascend International School

2025–2026

- Led **Yellow House to 1st place**, winning the overall House Cup with the highest cumulative points across all events, bringing the house from a last-place finish the previous year to 1st.
- Won the House Cup with a total of 3,200 points, a margin of approximately 150 points; the Humanities competition (Ubuntu), Sports Day, and Band competition were the decisive events.
- **Ubuntu Cup:** Led Yellow House to victory in Ubuntu, the school's inter-house Humanities competition and one of the decisive events in the House Cup win. Recruited participants from Grades 6 to 11 (DP1), selecting each for their skill set to give the house the best chance of winning, and coordinated and motivated 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, finishing only 30 points behind Blue House despite fielding 24 participants against roughly 35 for each of the other three houses, as attendance is optional. Kept the team motivated and pushing throughout the day while competing only in the High Jump due to an injury.
- Captained a total of 7 events across the year, personally competing in 6, while helping organise participation and maintaining engagement across all events throughout the year in a house of 50 students.
- Served as Yellow House ambassador, responsible for communication with house members, encouraging participation, coordinating teams, and supporting students during inter-house events.

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, balancing competitive play in interschool tournaments with the demands of the IB Diploma Programme.

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 ISSO interschool tournaments, medalling in every one; named MVP in 2 tournaments and Best Shooter.

Track and Field Athletics

2023–2026

- Won consistent gold & silver medals in the 100m, 200m, and High Jump at school athletics meets, establishing himself as a top performer at the school level. Personal best of 5' 4" in the High Jump.

Music

2013–Present

- "How Do I Know," original single released on Spotify and YouTube at age 10, inspired by the COVID-19 pandemic; accumulated 3,000 views and streams. **2020**
- Passed Trinity College London Grade 3 Singing with Distinction. **2018–2021**
- Self-taught on piano, saxophone, and guitar; has written and produced 4 original songs across pop and R&B, publishing one on Spotify.
- For the school's annual concert, taught himself how to play the saxophone in a short span of 3 months and performed the song 'La Vie en Rose' as a vocalist and saxophonist on stage.
- Performed as a vocalist, saxophonist, pianist, and guitarist at school concerts from Grades 4–10, combining performance with songwriting and music production, displaying technical skill and confidence on stage.
- Performed at roughly 10 school concerts and 4 outside performances, plus multiple open-mic nights.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Fitness Mentor | Salaam Bombay Foundation

August 2026–Present

- Working with Salaam Bombay's Fitness Monitors (aged 17–19), who teach fitness within slum communities, to strengthen their communication and leadership skills so they can lead their own sessions more confidently.
- Introducing new, engaging fitness routines for the Fitness Monitors to use in their community sessions, making fitness more accessible and enjoyable for participants.
- Participating in Gully Fitness, a community fitness initiative held at a Ganpati pandal, as part of this ongoing engagement.

Fundraiser | Vipla Foundation, Tata Mumbai Marathon

January 2027

- Registered to run the 10K again for the Vipla Foundation, a charity supporting hearing aid provision for children with hearing loss. Continuing to raise funds and awareness for children with hearing loss.

- Recruited two classmates to also register and run for Vipla, expanding the fundraising effort beyond his own participation.

Fundraiser | Vipla Foundation**2025**

- Raised ₹3.2 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.