

NISHITA MALHAN

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EDUCATION

The Cathedral & John Connon School, Mumbai, India

2009-2024

- Will appear for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program final examination in May 2024
- Completed the Indian Certificate of Secondary Examination (ICSE), Grade 10 – March 2022

STANDARDIZED TESTS AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT

- SAT: **1560** (Evidence-Based Reading & Writing: **780**; Math: **780**)
- Psychology – **5**
- TOEFL iBT **109**

AWARDS AND HONOURS

School Awards

- Honours Prize in School awarded for academic excellence - Grades 9, 10 and 11 2021-2023
- Joint School Topper in ICSE (**1st place among 120 students**) with **98.67%** aggregate score 2022
- Obtained the perfect score with **100/100** each in ICSE in Mathematics, Computer Applications, Chemistry, Biology, History 2022
- Kuruvilla Chemistry subject prize for topping Grade X in Chemistry
- Subject prize for topping Grade X in Geography

International Awards

- International English Olympiad: Rank 2 in school in X and IX, and Rank 1 in School in VIII 2020-2022

RIGHT TO INFORMATION OUTREACH

March 2023 - Ongoing

Right to Information Act (RTI) is a powerful tool to empower citizens in India to seek transparency and accountability in the working of the Government and public bodies.

- Worked with **Public Concern for Governance Trust (PCGT)**, Mumbai, an NGO focused on promoting good governance from March – June 2023 and completed the introductory training program for the RTI Act
- Training included learning about the Act, how to draft RTI applications, and helping others do so
- Currently working with **Saakhi**, a young NGO focused on addressing the asymmetry of information among women in rural India
- Working on creating modules for educating rural women on issues of domestic violence and sexual harassment

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE EXPERIENCES

Research

- **“The Big Vote – How India Conducts the World’s Largest Elections”** 2023
 - An independent research paper to understand the complexities of organizing elections in India.
 - Interviewed the State Election Commissioner of Maharashtra and conducted extensive secondary research
 - Highlighted the factors that enable India to conduct free and fair elections at a massive scale
- **“An Ethnic Reconciliation or Disguised Tensions?”** 2023
 - An independent research paper examining the impact of Myanmar’s 2021 military coup on the relationship between the Bamar majority and ethnic armed organisations in the country
 - Worked under the mentorship of Caroline de Lima e Silva, a postdoctoral fellow at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg – The Gottingen Institute for Advanced Study.
 - Analysed data from news websites to identify differences in reporting in Western news media versus local news sources.
- **“Evolution of the Civil Services in India”** 2023
 - Interviewed 14 retired members of the Indian civil services
 - Explored how the services have evolved over the years in terms of professionalism, accountability, political interference, scope of impact, and suggested areas of reform
- **“India’s Surgical Strikes in Pakistan as a Response to Uri”** 2023
 - Working on an Extended Essay (part of the IB requirement) to explore how the strikes reflected an interplay of domestic politics and national interests and how significant they were in controlling terrorism and establishing regional security in Jammu and Kashmir
- **“Efficacy of the Right to Information Act: An Assessment Through Primary Research”** 2023
 - Interviewed the ex- Chief Information Commissioner of Maharashtra and an RTI activist to explore opposing perspectives of the effectiveness of the legislation and its implementation

Publications

- **“The Great Omission: Why Don’t Indians Talk About Africa?”** 2023
 - Article published by Fair Observer, an independent, non-profit media organization that provides analysis and opinion on world news
 - The article reflects on the negative (and often lack of) representation of Africa in the Indian media and explores the plausible causes of this, and its effects on the perpetuation of stereotypes.

Shadowing

- **Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM)**, Mumbai March 2023
 - MCGM is the governing civic body of the city of Mumbai and the richest municipal corporation in India.

- Shadowed the Additional Municipal Commissioner, a senior officer of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), for a week.
- Got a bird's eye view of the large canvas on which the MCGM operates, including infrastructure development, water and sanitation services, health, and welfare activities, and the trade-offs between public policy and individual interests

Online Courses

- **Poverty & Population: How Demographics Shape Policy, Columbia University** 2023
 - Explore categories of social welfare and how these play a large role in shaping policy decisions.
- **Foundations of Ethical Decision-Making: Government and Political Issues, Georgetown University** 2023
 - Analyze real-world ethical dilemmas using multiple frameworks and refining an approach to ethical decision-making.
- **Politics and Economics of International Energy, Sciences Po** 2023
 - Discuss the interplay between international relations and energy issues by exploring trends in energy consumption and production, available resources for potential developments, and the evolution of the oil industry.

JOURNALISTIC PURSUITS

School

- **Cathedral News, Co-Editor**, quarterly published student-run school newspaper 2023
- **Cathedral Model United Nations, Moderator, International Press Corps** 2023
An annual conference currently in its 27th year, is one of India's oldest and most prestigious student-led conferences.
- **Encore Magazine, Co-editor**, magazine published in conjunction with a student-run musical festival in school 2022
- **Cathedral Model United Nations, Assistant Director, International Press Corps** 2022
- **Cathedral Model United Nations, Member, International Press Corps** 2021

Newspaper

- **Dainik Bhaskar, Bhopal** June 2023
 - Dainik Bhaskar is India's largest circulated daily newspaper.
 - Interned for a week in their head office in Bhopal, the capital of the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.
 - Got exposure to the newsroom, selection of stories for publishing in the next day's print, local reporting, and digital content.

Summer Program

- **The School of The New York Times, New York** June 2022
 - Attended a two-week residential Summer Academy program conducted by The School of The New York Times
 - Completed an introductory journalism course, "Writing the Big City: Reporting in New York"
 - Got exposure to different facets of writing a story – interviewing, news judgment, pitching to editors, and fact checking.
 - Wrote an article, "Social Media Aids Self Expression. Or Does it?"

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

- **Lecture Series on Women Empowerment, Mumbai** March – June 2023
 - Organized a series of 3 lectures for high school girl students from low-income backgrounds
 - Speakers were women in positions of power and influence: a senior officer in the government, a partner at a prestigious law firm, and the head of design and planning at India's largest airport operator.
 - Exposed these girls to women achievers, hoping to create role models, and thereby encouraging them to set aspirational dreams.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- **Mahalaxmi Mumbai Public School,** 2022-2023
a school for children from low-income backgrounds, run by the Akanksha Foundation, Mumbai
Volunteered at the Mahalaxmi Mumbai Public School for a couple of hours each week over the past 18 months.
- **Savera, a school for mentally challenged children from low-income backgrounds, Mumbai** 2019-2022
As a member of the Interact Club at school, volunteered once a week at Savera, engaging the children in dance and art.

OTHER SCHOOL PROJECTS

- **Economics** 2022-2023
 - Analysed a carbon tax imposed in Denmark to correct a negative production externality; used graphical means to explain the issues
 - Analysed the policy effectiveness of an interest rate hike in South Africa as a measure to contain inflation
- **Chemistry** 2022-2023
 - Conducted experiments to compare the concentration of ascorbic acid in fresh fruit juice and canned fruit juice using iodometric titration
 - Analysed the effect of temperature on the fluoride ion concentration in samples of toothpaste using spectrophotometry

CREATIVE INTERESTS - DANCE

- **Bharat Natyam, a classical Indian dance form** 2013-2023
 - Training in Bharat Natyam for about 9 years and participated in various concerts and shows.
 - Training for my *Arangetaram* (formal on-stage solo performance on completion of training) in June 2024

OTHER INTERESTS, SKILLS

- Writing poetry – published a collection of poems Verses from Within, in 2018 (ISBN-13: 978-1983076039)
- Piano – cleared level 3 of the Trinity College London exam.
- Enjoy playing badminton and have played for my house in inter-house competitions in school
- Experimenting with new types of food, traveling, reading, and watching films