**ZAHAAN KAPADIA**
Zahaankapadia@gmail.com; +91 7021899000
Website: www.zahaankapadia.com

## EDUCATION

**Dhirubhai Ambani International School** (DAIS), *Mumbai* March 2013 - July 2027

- **IBDP:** HL: Math AI, Business Management, Geography; SL: Sports Science, English Lang and Lit, French B
- **IGCSE:** World Literature (A*), Global Perspectives (A*), International Mathematics (A), Physical Education (A), Physics (A), Chemistry (A), Geography (A), French (A), First Language English (A)

## ACADEMIC HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

**Certificate of Excellence,** International Chemistry Quiz August 2026

- Scored 30/30 in the International Chemistry Quiz, securing 1st place in school

**Rank Holder,** International Economics Olympiad May 2026

- Achieved an all-India rank of 27 from over 6,000 participants from across the country

**Rank Holder,** National Finance Olympiad January 2026

- Achieved an all-India rank of 19/200 (Level 1) and 34/200 (Level II) in the National Finance Olympiad

**Certificate of Excellence,** DAIS Model United Nations, *Mumbai* September 2025

- Awarded the Best Delegate of Photography for the DAIMUN 2025

**Subject Achievement Awards**, DAIS, *Mumbai* March 2025 - 2026

- Recognised as the top student in 5 IGCSE subjects: Geography, French, Global Perspectives, English, and PE
- Awarded Subject Prizes in Geography, Business Management, and SEHS in Grade 11

**Gold Award**, Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition, *Online* October 2024

- Won the Gold Award in the Senior Category for an essay on how young entrepreneurs could solve social problems

## SOCIOLOGY-LINKED INITIATIVES

**Podcaster**, The Human Blueprint, *Mumbai* August 2026 - Present

- Collected data for podcast on inequality, urban sociology and public policy, interviewing sociologists and experts
- Interviewed Dhaval Desai, VP, Observer Research Foundation, on affordable housing, governance and inclusive cities

**Researcher**, Mentor: Apurva Borar, Applied Economics PhD Student, Cornell University, *Online* February - May 2026

- Researched the impact of socioeconomic background on Taekwondo participation among adolescents in Mumbai
- Implemented a comparative research methodology with 157 students from private and government schools
- Identified key disparities in sports opportunities between different socioeconomic groups
- Developed evidence-based recommendations to improve accessibility in youth sports programs

**App Developer,** Future Feed (Inspired by a project from the Columbia Summer Program), *Online* January 2026 - Present

- Launched an app using React Native, cloud-based RESTful APIs and MySQL
- Helped teenagers discover career paths across medicine, law, science, economics, engineering, psychology and sociology while scrolling through short videos in their personalised career feeds; gained over 2,500 users for the app and counting

**Social Justice Advocate and Environment Enthusiast,** *Goa* December 2025

- Advocated with the government to pass the legislation for Early Childhood Education Expansion
- Partnered with a local NGO to host a workshop on sustainable practices of waste management for 150 people
- Resulted in the collection and conversion of 4 tons of food waste from casino yachts into compost and manure

**Co-President,** Gujarati Yuva Samaj Foundation, *Gujarat* July 2025

- Facilitated a cultural awareness field trip for 5 local communities to the Dahod Tribal Museum

**Founder,** The Letterbox League, *Online* December 2024
- Pioneered a letter-writing campaign connecting volunteers with migrant detainees for translation assistance
- Translated legal immigration-related documents for 50 migrant detainees; mentored 9 young activists

**Volunteer,** Youth Ambassador, Sports Council, Goa Forward Party, *Goa* January - June 2024
- Launched and designed a statewide youth sports participation survey across schools and local clubs in Goa
- Gathered student feedback on access to coaching, facilities, funding and awareness of athletic opportunities
- Coordinated with schools to improve awareness campaigns, event turnout and registration for sporting programs
- Partnered with Relay for Life, a cancer awareness initiative, to organise fundraising events; raised INR 40,000
- Won the Young Citizen of the Year Award for leadership, public service and contributions toward youth empowerment

## ENTREPRENEURIAL PROJECTS

**Founder,** Zactive, *Mumbai* August 2025 - Present
- Founded a sportswear brand; sold 600+ units using digital marketing and community outreach
- Implemented branding, pricing, supplier negotiations, inventory planning and customer acquisition strategies
- Developed a sustainable social enterprise model reinvesting profits to create inclusive sports opportunities for underserved and differently-abled children (donated INR 5,00,000 to the Vipla Foundation)
- Subsidised T-shirts for girls to increase participation in sports and promote gender equality among athletes

**Founder,** Entrepreneurship Club, DAIS, *Mumbai* March - September 2025
- Helped members sharpen skills essential to business: pitching, negotiation, and communication, among others
- Launched Founders Forum, a business exhibition for budding entrepreneurs to showcase their business ideas

## TAEKWONDO

**Competitive Taekwondo Athlete,** National Taekwondo Academy, *Mumbai* January 2015 - Present
- Won a Silver Medal at the World Taekwondo Championships in Bahrain, representing Team India (2024–2025)
- Won a Gold Medal at the Mumbai Suburban Taekwondo Championships (Under 19 category) (2025-2026)
- Won the Gold Medal at the ISSO National Taekwondo Championships (Under 19 category) (2025-2026)
- Won the Gold Medal at the Stairs National Sports Youth District Championships (Under 19 category) (2025-2026)
- Awarded the Maharashtra District Award by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (2024-2026)
- Received a Certificate of Excellence in Taekwondo from Dhirubhai Ambani International School (2024-2026)
- Won a Silver Medal at the Taekwondo Association Championship, the Indian Olympic Association (2024-2025)
- Won a Gold Medal at the Government of India District Taekwondo Championship (Under-17 category) (2023-2024)
- Won a Silver Medal at the Navi Mumbai Taekwondo Championship (Under-17 category) (2023-2024)
- Won a Bronze Medal at the National Championship organised by NSPO (Under-14 category) (2023-2024)

## RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

**Student,** Columbia Pre-College Summer Program, *New York* June - July 2025
- Pitched an interactive platform, Future Feed, aimed at helping young audiences explore various career options
- Learned the basics of stocks, bonds, valuation models of investments, firms and securities, among other concepts

**Student,** Online Courses, *Online* March - December 2025
- Completed an AI Course by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, learning to use AI tools like Gemini, etc.
- Completed the Course on Creating Change through Social Entrepreneurship by Yale University

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Intern,** FC Goa, *Goa* December 2025 - January 2026
- Analysed trends and recommended ways to improve fan engagement and match-day experiences
- Introduced interactive half-time activities, digital fan polls, and loyalty rewards, increasing fan engagement by 20-35%
- Drafted sponsorship pitch decks for brand partners like Bisleri, Red Bull and Pizza Hut
- Compiled post-event analytics reports summarising attendance, fan interaction rates, and social media impressions

**Intern,** Raymond Realty, *Mumbai* June - July 2025
- Streamlined site visit processes by organising schedules, coordinating between sales teams and project staff
- Conducted a competitor analysis of companies like Raheja, Adani, Lodha, Supreme and Evershine
- Identified key market trends, pricing strategies and customer preferences for the business development team

**Political Analyst and Communications Intern,** Ministry of Ports, *Goa* July - August 2024
- Helped draft parliamentary speeches on topics like maritime trade growth and fishing community welfare
- Analysed constituency issues in relation to coastal infrastructure, tourism, and environmental sustainability
- Simplified complex policy initiatives into clear public-facing messaging for speeches and reports
- Gathered constituency feedback and synthesised it into actionable policy recommendations

## LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

**Captain**, DAIS Football Team, *Mumbai* August 2023 - Present
- Led the team across 25+ inter-school and club tournaments; mentored junior players and directed in-game tactics
- Won the ISSO 2023; MSSA, Ecole Energise and BD-Liga 2024, and the South Bombay Monsoon League 2025
- Finished as top scorer at the BD-Liga and the South Bombay Monsoon League; runners-up at the ABWA Fiesta
- Organised a charity football tournament with 15+ teams across Mumbai in partnership with Aseema Foundation

**Deputy Head: Photography**, DAIMUN, *Mumbai* August 2026 - 2027
- Led a team of 14 photographers, assigning them to different committees; monitored coverage throughout the event

**Under-18 Youth Leader**, The All India Hindu Mahasabha, *Mumbai* March 2025
- Conducted Yoga sessions, promoting physical well-being and mindfulness among participants
- Advocated for ethical living and value-based leadership as the Dharma Ambassador; awarded a recognition badge

**Lead Actor**, DAIS Annual Day, *Mumbai* March 2025
- Played the lead role of Vasudev in the DAIS Annual Day, delivering a full-length performance before a live audience
- Collaborated with cast and production team to refine characterisation, stage presence, and delivery

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Student Mentor**, Vipla Foundation, *Mumbai* June 2024 - Present
- Mentored 120 students with disabilities through weekly sports training (football and table tennis)
- Organised a sports collection drive, collecting carrom boards, footballs, cricket kits and more

**Volunteer**, Cuddles Foundation, *Mumbai* August - September 2025
- Distributed 15 nutrition kits for underprivileged children undergoing cancer treatment at partner hospitals
- Facilitated 17 caregiver sessions on nutrition and hygiene; operated a stall at the school CAS Fete, raising ₹50,000
- Hosted and acted as a live commentator for the DAIS Annual CAS Fete for over 1200 attendees

## SKILLS AND INTERESTS

**Languages**: English, French, Hindi, Marathi
**Interests**: Sociology, Business, Photography, Football, Taekwondo, Diving, Skiing, Fitness
**Skills**: Leadership, Critical Thinking, Time Management, Problem Solving, Video Editing, Microsoft Office