

DHRISHIT KHANDHAR

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EDUCATION

Jamnabai Narsee International School , Mumbai, India	July 2010-May 2026
-International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP), Grade 11 & 12	2024-2026
-International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), Grade 9 & 10	2022-2024

STANDARDIZED TESTS

- SAT: Total-1510, Math-790, English-720	2025
- IELTS: Overall 8, Listening-8.5, Reading-9, Writing-7.5, Speaking-7	2025

ACADEMIC HONOURS & AWARDS

International

-Winner, Earth Prize Asian Scholar Award, Selected from a pool of 10,444 participants, Project GreytoGrow	2025
-Distinction, Avogadro Chemistry Exam, University of Waterloo	2025
-Distinction, International Chemistry Quiz, Qualified for ICQ Asia Camp	2025
-Distinction, top 25% in the world, Fryer, Fermat, and Hypatia Math Contest, University of Waterloo	2023-2025
-Silver Medal, Outstanding Achievement, HKIMO Math Olympiad	2023
-Gold Medal (top 5% in India), FISO Biology Olympiad	2023

School

-Ranked 1st in Math AA HL and English SL, Grade 11 Term 2	2025
-Ranked 1st in Math AA HL, Chemistry HL, and English SL, Grade 11 Term 1	2024
-Ranked 1st in IGCSE Biology and English, 10th Board Examinations	2024
-Ranked in the top 5% of the class, Grade 10 and 11	2024/2025

MARINE BIOLOGY & ECOLOGY EXPERIENCES

Innovation & Outreach

Founder, Time and Tide (Intertidal walk club) 2024-Present

- Engaged in intertidal walks by Mr Pradip Patade (Marine Life of Mumbai) to gain direct exposure to marine ecosystems.
- Organised 12+ intertidal walks to educate the public about Mumbai's marine biodiversity.
- Led Saakshartaa Foundation students in interactive learning activities at the beach, teaching them about marine biodiversity and plastic pollution issues.

Founder, Project GreytoGrow, Mentored by Nirupma Singh, PhD in Bioinformatics, University of Delhi 2025

- Created a 3-step prototype to purify and reuse greywater, inspired by wetland ecosystems.
- Trained 100+ children from the Saaksharta Foundation to implement the system through workshops and by distributing kits and manuals.

Research

Independent Research Paper, Mentor Dr Paily Ghanekar, PhD in Microbiology, Mumbai University 2023-2024

- Title: "Microfragmentation as a Coral Reef Restoration Tool: The Role of Genetics, Microbiomes, & Climate Challenge"
- Analyzed how 4 coral species secrete hormones and enzymes during microfragmentation and how extreme environmental stress affects their effectiveness.
- Published in the International Journal for High School Research, December 2025 volume.
- Received the British Gold CREST Award

Internships

Intern, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Mumbai, India 2023/2024

- Contributed to research at BNHS, an Indian NGO focused on nature conservation and biodiversity, under Dr Reshma Pitale, Research Scientist.
- Analyzed migratory patterns of wading birds from Central Asia and their diets in marshlands.
- Studied the impact of local construction on ecosystems and the genomes of crustaceans and fish.
- Assessed moss adaptations before and after bridge construction and how these changes influenced bird diets.

Intern, Coastal Impact, Goa, India 2025
-Worked with an NGO focused on preserving and conserving marine ecosystems, under Mr Jeremy Josh, Marine Biologist.
-Investigated testing & research methods near Grande Island, Goa, like concrete tables or Artificial Reefs for coral regrowth.
-Visited the National Institute of Oceanography and gained insights into the latest coral research.

Publication

Freelance Author, Hornbill Magazine, A publication by BNHS 2025
-Published an article describing my diving experiences and marine biodiversity observations in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, June-September 2025 edition.

Marine Life Photography

Photographer

-Published *100 FEET UNDER-Embracing the Serenity*; underwater photography book, with Partridge Publishing. 2025
-Developed professional underwater photography skills while capturing images during trips to Bali, Indonesia, and the Andaman Islands, India. 2023-2025

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES PURSUITS

Independent Research Paper, Mentor Dr Nirupma Singh, PhD in Bioinformatics, University of Delhi 2025
Title: "Evolutionary History of Pulmonary Surfactant Proteins: A Defence Against Fibrosis?"
-Analyzed how the evolutionary history of pulmonary surfactant proteins in vertebrates affects prevention and susceptibility to lung fibrosis.
-Participated in the S.T. Yau Competition and qualified for the first round.
-Submitted the Research paper for publication to the National High School Journal of Science.

Intern, miBiome Therapeutics LLP, Mumbai, India 2025
-Worked for 4 weeks under Ms Nandini Dasgupta, Head of Science at miBiome, a company advancing genome diagnostics through bioinformatics and AI.
-Researched the evolution of gene sequencing devices, such as Sanger sequencing and Illumina sequencing.
-Explored real-world applications of genomics via laboratory visits and demonstrations with technologies like the Qubit Fluorometer & Oxford Nanopore.

LEADERSHIP

Volunteer Teacher, Saakshartaa Foundation (NGO), Mumbai, India 2024-2025
-Taught over 100 hours of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics to low-income 7th-grade students.
-Worked through the complete syllabus, clarified doubts, led revisions, and designed quizzes to reinforce learning.
-Adapted instruction to Hindi to match the students' language proficiency and build comfort with technical terms.

Senior House Captain, Tagore House, Jamnabai Narsee International School 2023-2024
-Led and represented 300+ students. Organized events and motivated student participation in sports and cultural activities.

EXTRACURRICULAR PURSUITS

Photography & Art 2022-Present
-Exhibited paintings and photographs at the Jamnabai Narsee Anand Mela, selling more than 15. 2024
-Ranked in the top 50 out of 120,000+ entries in the Hashtag Kalakar Art Contest. 2024
-Organised a fluid art workshop; taught 100+ students at the Jamnabai Narsee Anand Mela. 2023
-Completed a four-level photography course with Tina Dehal Photography. 2022-2023

Open Water Diver, PADI Certified-Advanced Level, Bali, Indonesia & Andaman, India 2022-2024
-Explored an underwater shipwreck to study marine life and practice advanced diving techniques.
-Completed an Underwater Photography course; learned to adjust ISO, shutter speed, focus, & flash in underwater settings.

Author, The Tale of Vinculoca 2023
-Selected by school teachers based on my interest in English literature to author a short book, published by BriBooks.
-Wrote about a mechanised utopian future where select students from sectors were escorted to experience the natural world.