

GAURI GUPTA

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EDUCATION

<i>Neerja Modi School, Jaipur, India</i>	2023-Present
• International Baccalaureate Diploma Program	2024-2026
• Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (Y10)	2023-2024
<i>The Cathedral and John Connon School, Mumbai, India</i>	2011-2023

STANDARDISED TESTS

• SAT: Total: 1550; Reading and Writing: 760; Math: 790 (first attempt)	2024
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ACADEMIC HONOURS AND AWARDS

• International Rank #1: (Top 0.03%): Sir Isaac Newton Physics Examination University of Waterloo	2025
• Shrimati Bimla Gold Medal: Best Female Student of the Year for Exemplary Achievement and Leadership	2025
• Academic Excellence Award: Conferred upon students in the Top 1% of a cohort of 511	2025
• Grade Topper: History HL, Physics HL, English Literature and Language HL	2024
• IGCSE Subject Topper: Physics, Chemistry, Information Communication and Technology	2024
• John Locke Essay Competition: Theology (High Commendation); Philosophy (Commendation); History (Commendation)	2024
• Winner: New York Times “Where We Are” Photo Essay Contest (~0.16%)	2025
• Winner: New York Times Student Profile Contest (~0.5%)	2022
• IRIS National Science Fair (Indian Chapter of ISEF); Top 100 Projects in India; 1 of 6 best Behavioral Sciences projects	2023

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

<i>Founder, Common Ground</i>	2023-Present
• Active in 4 states; Partnered with 6 NGOs including Seeds of Peace and United Religions Initiative to rebuild trust through constructive dialogue and religious literacy	
• Launched a ‘Civic Harmony Taskforce’ training 2,000 police personnel in conflict mediation and countering misinformation to de-escalate violence and establish early-warning response systems	
• Designed Peace curriculum, equipping 5K educators and 3K students with skills to recognise implicit bias and cultivate empathy through active listening	
• Drafted state report on Communal Harmony and the Victim Compensation Act under an Ex-Member of Parliament	
<i>Community and Oral Historian, The People’s Collectives</i>	2022-Present
• Led participatory oral history-songs archive with 60 Dalit and Tribal members, recording 350+ first-person testimonies amplifying marginalized voices	
• Curated India’s 1st Virtual Untouchability Museum featuring 56 caste-violence artefacts to document lived realities	
• Established Students of Equality Clubs in 83 schools with caste-sensitivity curricula fostering inclusion and social awareness	
• Developed multilingual rights-based toolkits empowering 2,600+ citizens; hosted 15+ policy dialogues with government and community leaders	
• Seeded 90 Dalit youth-led projects through microgrants and (\$25.3k) leveraging CSR and state entrepreneurship/poverty-alleviation schemes	

PHILOSOPHY EXPERIENCE

<i>Self-taught Philosophy:</i> Spent over 1,400+ hours engaging with primary/secondary philosophy material	2018-Present
<i>Member, Team India, International Philosophy Olympiad (55 countries)</i>	2025-2026
• 1 of 2 representing India internationally in Bari, Italy; Awarded an Honorable Mention (Top 0.03%; only Indian awarded) for essay examining the nature of authority and moral accountability – Highest Indian Score	
<i>Founder, Philosophize Direct and TedX Speaker</i>	2022-Present
• Published 35+ papers in Philosophize Direct, a peer-reviewed journal evaluated by 2 professors	
• Delivered TEDx Talk on Philosophy in Physics Education (29,000+ views)	17 th August 2023

RELIGION AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES EXPERIENCES

<i>Priest-in-Training, Arya Samaj (Hindu Reformist Movement)</i>	2022-Present
• Training to join ~70 female Hindu priests; mastered 100+ Vedic hymns and fire rituals; promoting inclusive and gender-equitable religious practice	
<i>Lead Project Manager, Phonos: Archeoacoustic and Sonic Anthropology</i>	2023-Present
• Archeoacoustics studies how sound shaped ancient sacred spaces and rituals, preserving the aural heritage of civilizations through a multidisciplinary approach combining anthropology, architecture, phenomenology, and music	
• Sound mapped 37 sites including temples, forts, stepwells, caves and partnered with the Indian Sonic Research Organization	
• Received a \$13,000 grant from the State Government to preserve cave rock art through auralisation and digital documentation	
• Develop a community-centered tourism model engaging 600+ locals	
<i>First and Solo High School Intern & Training Conservator; National Mission for Manuscripts, Government of India</i>	2024-Present
• Championed IIIF (International Image Interoperability Framework) adoption to expand access to Indic texts and enhance digital interoperability	
• Co-authored an experiential pedagogy guide for a High School Manuscript Workshop; facilitated 15 outreach workshops to train 75+ students in manuscript care	
• Preserved and catalogued 15+ rare bamboo/palm-leaf manuscripts; acquired fluency in paleography, codicology, transliteration, and digitization	
• Reorganized 4 rural community archives, advocating low-cost indigenous conservation methods and disaster risk management storage solutions	
<i>Only High school Student; The Rare Book School, University of Virginia</i>	2024-Present
• Selected alongside and collaborated with PhD candidates and professors/faculty, selected as the only high school participant	
• Medieval Manuscript Fragments , under Professor Lisa Fagin Davis (Executive Director, Medieval Academy of America)	
◦ Trained in Latin/Western paleography and codicology, mastering Gothic and Caroline scripts, and IIIF/MARC/TEI metadata standards	
◦ Delivered a solo, 15-min presentation contextualizing the Meghadūta manuscript (15 th century poem); advocating for Global South Asian perspective	
◦ Learnings culminated in an article in The Times of India prompting the integration of collaborative and interoperable frameworks in Indian manuscriptology to advance global access and cross-institutional scholarship	
• Building a BookLab , under Professors Matthew G. Kirschenbaum and Kari Kraus (University of Maryland)	
◦ Learned about practical strategies for launching and maintain student-centric humanities makerspaces; implemented learnings to develop the Neerja Modi School Humanities Makerspace which explores Jaipur’s histories through textiles	
<i>Paid Research Intern, Mission for Indian History and Archeology: Aga Khan Documentation Center, MIT, UTokyo, Five Cross Architects</i>	2024-Present
• The Mission for Indian History and Archaeology is a digital heritage initiative aimed at documenting South Asian Islamic architecture, hosted on Archnet - an open access and collaborative database dedicated to architecture/urbanism/visual culture	
• Catalogued 130 artifacts of Islamic monuments from the Delhi Sultanate period - including rubbings, film-negatives, and photographs; authored briefs on photogrammetry methodologies pioneered by Japanese scholars in postcolonial India	
• Conducted a comparative analysis of the 1956 and 2016 architectural surveys, identifying patterns of monumental loss and urban encroachment;	
<i>Diaries of Medieval India</i>	
• Instagram blog on Indian manuscript traditions and cultural theory with 2k+ followers (including 6 professors), and 5.6M+ views	

<p><i>Sir Sita Ram's Ledger</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curated a digital family archive of Sir Sita Ram's (Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan, 1949-51) Partition-era diplomacy, integrating 50+ intergenerational narratives and letters. 		2023-2024
<p><i>Research Intern, The City Palace Jaipur</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked under curator and conservator Anjali Jain to conduct non-invasive pigment analysis on Devi Mahatmya manuscripts (40 folios) using crystallographic techniques, microscopy, multispectral imaging, reflectance spectroscopy, and X-ray fluorescence (XRF) Traced provenances of South Asian colorants and evidencing indigenous colorant systems that challenge Eurocentric narratives of pigment exchange 		2024-Present
RESEARCH		
<p><i>How does contemporary Dalit music reinterpret the Bhakti tradition's use of music to challenge caste hierarchies?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published in Atishay Kalit, refereed/peer-reviewed Journal of Fine Arts, Culture and Humanities (ISSN: 2277-419X), Vol. 12, Prt. A; Sr. 22 Examined how contemporary Dalit/anti-caste music revives the Bhakti (thirteenth century) tradition's egalitarian and vernacular spirit to challenge hegemonic caste narratives and express cultural agency, through figures like poet-saint Ravidas; read vernacular poetry 		2024-2025
<p><i>Divine Love and Devotion in Separation: Hadewijch and Mirabai's Poetics in Christian and Hindu Mystical Tradition</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In peer-review, Journal of Religion and History (ISSN: 3068-4803) Conducted a comparative mystical theology study of Hadewijch of Flanders and Mirabai of Rajasthan, demonstrating how both mystics reimagined longing and pain as transformative spiritual acts that subverted androcentric frameworks and institutionalized worship, proposing a universal, embodied language of divine love that transcends cultural boundaries 		2024-Present
<p><i>Beyond a Religious War: The Socio-Economic Foundations of Colonialism in the Crusades</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published in The Schola (ISSN: 2508-7835), Vol. 9, Issue II Analyzed the Crusades as a catalyst for Europe's economic consolidation and proto-colonial expansion, highlighting their role in shaping governance, trade networks, and cultural power 		2023-2024
<p><i>Communicative Cues and Peaceful Practices: Synthesizing Historical and Contemporary Approaches to Interfaith Relations in India</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published in Journal of Language, Literature, Social and Cultural Studies (ISSN: 2986-4461), Vol. 3, No. 3; Indexed by Google Scholar Conducted a comparative study of India's ancient and contemporary interfaith peacebuilding models to examine how dialogic communication and cultural reciprocity sustain pluralism and counter religious animosity 		2025
<p><i>Words as performance: Anti-caste articulations in the lyrics of Bhakti songs, contemporary Dalit music and Matua verses</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted Book Abstract in 'Marginal Voices on Stage: Documenting Dalit and Tribal Performance Traditions in South Asia' (Forthcoming, Peter Lang International Academic Publishers) – <i>decision for book chapter awaited</i> Conducted a comparative study of Bhakti-era <i>kirtans</i> (chants) and contemporary Dalit verses, drawing on V. Geetha and Judith Butler to argue that vernacular performance and counterspeech transform language itself into an act of anti-caste resistance and identity formation. 		2025-Present
<p><i>Visual Systems of Female Piety in Byzantine Sacred Architecture, mentored by Professor Lisa Reilly (Department Chair, Architectural History Program)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted an art-historical and phenomenological analysis 6 mosaics from Hagia Sophia and the Church of Chora to demonstrate how Byzantine sacred architecture visualized and materialized female piety, positioning the Virgin Mary as a theological axis of sanctity and inclusion 		2025
<p><i>The Politics of Personality in Stalin and Gandhi's Paths to Power, mentored by Professor Dan Edelstein (Stanford University)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In peer-review, Journal of Historical Studies and Research (ISSN: 2583-0198), Vol. 5, No. 3 Compared Gandhi and Stalin to argue that both, despite ideological divergence, engineered revolutions through regulating the self: Gandhi through moral self-discipline and Stalin through political coercion 		2025-Present
<p><i>Exploring the Arthuna Temple Complex: A Survey of Historiographical Traditions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented at the 38th Session of the Rajasthan History Congress Analyzed the Temple complex as a medium of Paramara kingship, linking architecture to political legitimacy and cultural plurality in medieval India 		2024
COMMUNITY OUTREACH		
<p><i>Founder, Read to India</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International non-profit organization, recognized by the University of Sydney, Rochester, Top 50/1300 at U Gujrat Competition Partnered with 14 blind schools in India, Bhutan, and Nepal; empowered 640; produced 2,100 tactile books including STEAM and Indian Mythology series; patented visual recognition method (#202421074191) Designed sensory accessibility tools for the Ancient India exhibit at the British Museum and audio guides for the National Constitution Museum. Co-created India's first French Braille Library (90 titles) with Access For All and the French Embassy; connected 25+ scribes with visually impaired students to ensure accessible examination support. 		2020-Present
<p><i>Project Manager, Art Ki Pathshala</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building social emotional learning competencies through arts education in 50 low-income government schools, distributed 5,000 art kits, boosted attendance by 46%; trained 50 facilitators; conducted workshops for 45 children with incarcerated mothers 		2021-Present
<p><i>Volunteer, The Dharavi Dream Project (TDDP)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDDP is an after-school of Hip-Hop, located in Asia's largest slum, which empowers children and helps combat drug trafficking through music education Documented 10+ stories for NYT photo essay; trained 30+ children in using mixing consoles and samplers; supported the recording of 5 resistance raps 		2024-Present
LEADERSHIP		
<p><i>Head Girl, Neerja Modi School</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapped peer networks of 6,000 CBSE and IB students to identify patterns of isolation/popularity/friendship clusters; redesigned classroom seating based on network data to foster equitable interaction, improving participation and inclusivity by 30% Raised \$7,000 for 12+ social projects and organized 20+ events, including India's first school-based LARP (50+ participants) 		2025-Present
<p><i>President, Neerja Modi Historical Society</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-edited anthology (11 writers) titled <i>Echoes of the Past</i>, about postcolonial evolution of Indian museology, focusing on indigenous curatorial agency (ISBN: 978-93-88997-75-1) Led Docent Programme, training 20 students in heritage storytelling across Hawa Mahal, Albert Hall, Amer Fort, and Jantar Mantar Organized 6 fundraisers for Project Bawri, raising \$2.5K to restore 2 stepwells now supplying 21,000L of water daily to 7,000 villagers; launched student-led maintenance programs (Finalist, Stockholm Junior Water Prize 2025) 		2024-Present
<p><i>President and Participant, Neerja Modi School Ethics Bowl</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched NMS's first Ethics Bowl Club (300 members) to build an ethical reasoning toolkit; conducted bi-monthly case discussions; coached 200+ students (8 teams to regionals); Senior Team ranked #7/55 internationally at the Ethics Bowl; led a 20-week ethics campaign with 14 middle schoolers 		2024-Present
PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First high school exhibitor at the Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai's premier public art institution; enacted policy change to allow student exhibitions Traveled to 10+ cities to document stories through visual storytelling and photo essays, exhibited work at City For All? Lyon, France; Jaipur Art Week, published twice in the New York Times; total ~70k visitors across 3 exhibitions 		2023 2020-Present
SKILLS AND OTHER PURSUITS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proficient in 2 medieval scripts/indigenous languages: Brahmi and Nastaliq; Attended Prof. Tyler Williams' 3-day workshop on the Rajasthani dialect Stanford Summer Humanities Institute, Course: "Revolutions," taught by Professor Dan Edelstein International level debater (Oxbridge Finalist); ISDS National Camp (Top 32); Best Speaker, The Cathedral and John Connon School Individual Championship, Interhouse Swimming, The Cathedral and John Connon School 		July 2025 2022-Present 2023