Zoya Akhter

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SUMMARY

- Experienced Researcher with over 6 years of experience with a strong background in climate risk assessments, climate action planning, and stakeholder engagement. Proven track record in producing high-quality outputs focused on sustainable policies and climate strategies. Adept at managing multiple projects, facilitating knowledge transfer, and engaging with diverse stakeholders for fulfillment of projects. Currently transitioning back to full-time work after a planned parental leave, while managing family hospitality operations and continuing independent research and writing.
- **Soft Skills**: Strong communication, relationship building, project management, detail-oriented and collaborative mindset.
- **Hard Skills**: Proficient in qualitative analysis, Notion, Trello, Copper, Photoshop, MS Office, Canva

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EDUCATION

- Masters in Geopolitics & International Relations, Manipal University, Manipal
- Bachelors in Arts (Economics, Political Science & English Literature), St Joseph College of Arts and Science, Bengaluru
- Certification: "The Intersection of Finance, Strategy, and Sustainability Specialization", University of Oxford, Saïd Business School - (Coursera), In progress

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Blue Sky Analytics, The Hague/Gurugram

Climate Research Associate — June 2022- July 2024

- Conducted **data-driven research** on climate-related risks and their potential impact on vulnerable sectors, focusing on **emission reduction** and **climate risk assessments**.
- Developed use cases for satellite-derived climate data for **climate action** for clients.
- **Authored research articles**, white papers and blog posts on the financial implications of climate change, utilizing SEO tools resulting in over **40% improvement** in sales and outreach.
- Composed monthly newsletters tracking key **regulatory developments**, resulting in a **20% increase** in client engagement.
- Collaborated and worked closely with Sales, Marketing and Data teams, as well as external stakeholders, managing multiple parallel tasks.
- Designed and created illustrations for blogs and marketing copy.
- Crafted social media content, achieving an **increment of over 10,000 followers** on LinkedIn and a **30% increase** in engagement rate.

Centre for Air Power Studies, New Delhi

Research Associate — May 2019 - April 2022

- Conducted meticulous **data-driven research** on sustainable energy policies in Asia, with an emphasis on civil nuclear programs.
- Authored the book "Nuclear Power in Asia Post Fukushima", published by KW Publishers and reprinted by Routledge, UK.
- Provided **policy recommendations** to the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, on the development of small modular reactors.
- Organized **workshops and training programs** for over 500 officers of the Indian Military.
- Collaborated with international think tanks and organizations, leveraging expertise to achieve impactful outcomes.
- Expanded outreach and brand awareness by managing social media accounts and compiling newsletters.

National Institute of Advanced Studies (IISc), Bengaluru

Research Associate — June 2016 - Feb 2017

- Analyzed Chinese foreign policy regarding South Asian countries, leading a team of engineers and translators.

Conducted extensive **qualitative analyses** from diverse data sources to track foreign policies.

NOTABLE ARTICLES AND RESEARCH PAPERS

- "Assessing the Increasing Appeal of Nuclear Energy", Defence and Diplomacy Journal, v.10, n.1, ISSN 2347 – 3703
- Co-authored "The Global Nuclear Landscape: Energy, Non-proliferation and Disarmament", Routledge, 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Published a single-author book** titled "Nuclear Policies in Asia post-Fukushima",Routledge Publishers.
- Youngest **Executive Member**, Women in Nuclear, India.
- **Represented India** at several international conferences, including the **Asia Pacific Week** organised by Australia National University (Canberra), Institute of Cultural Diplomacy (Berlin), Global Youth Leadership Camp (Colombo).
- **Invited** to speak at distinguished institutions such as the **Indian Air Force, Amity University, and Centre for Air Power Studies**, on foreign policy subjects.
- Co-authored "**Nuclear Wrap-up" report**, which earned the prestigious distinction of being selected by **US Library of Congress** for their foreign digital collection.
- **Rising Beyond The Ceiling Karnataka 2025 nomine**e (A global initiative to shine a spotlight on the achievements of Muslim women of India and contribute towards changing their stereotypical narrative)