PALAK AKHIL SAMANI

1143, North Shivaji Nagar, Balaji Mills Road, Sangli, 416416, India

Website: www.palaksamani.com | Email: palaksamani1@gmail.com | Mobile Number: +91 9145611222

EDUCATION	
Prabhavati Padamshi Soni International Junior College, Mumbai, India; Cambridge Advanced Level, Grade 12	2024- Present
Cambridge Advanced Subsidiary Level, Grade 11 Sanjay Ghodawat International School, Atigre, India;	2015- 2024
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education, Grade 10 STANDARDISED TESTS AND APs	
SAT: 1540/1600 (Math 800, English 740)	2025
AP Microeconomics: 5/5 AP Statistics: 5/5	2025
IELTS: 8.0 / 9.0	2025
ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONOURS	
School Validitation Condens 9 0 and 10	2022 2024
Valedictorian - Grades 8,9 and 10 Subject Topper IGCSE - Economics, Computer Science, Physics, Biology	2022-2024 2024
Subject Topper Grade 9 - Computer Science, Biology	2023
Student of the Year	2023
Top 5% of graduating class - Grade 11 Top 5% of class in midterms - Grade 12	2024 2025
10p 3/0 of class in midderins - Grade 12	2023
International	
World Topper; CEMC Fermat High Contest - Perfect Scorer 150/150, Honor Roll	2025 2025
Gold Medalist; Hong Kong International Math Olympiad	2023
World Rank 6, Finalist; Ashoka Economics Olympiad Commendation; John Locke Institute Essay Competition - Economics	2025
Distinction; London School of Economics Essay Competition - Economics	2025
Results Awaited; Marshall Society Essay Competition - Math and Economics	2025 2025
Global Top 6%, High Distinction ; Cambridge Economics and Finance Competition 94/100	2025
Distinction, Sir Issac Newton Physics Competition World Rank 4; Wiz Spelling Bee - among ~400,000 students	2023-2024
AGRARIAN FARMERS EMPOWERMENT AND LIVELIHOODS	
Founder; Zerra - zerrawaste.com CREST Gold Award Winner with Perfect Score	2022 - Present
This is a marketplace for agricultural waste that prevents stubble burning by connecting with industries to repurpose waste to make things like biomass briquettes, sustainable packaging and particle boards. I started this manually and then made it into a website for scaling ~500 farmers trading ~\$310,000 in earnings raised ~4,500 tons of carbon dioxide release prevented ~1,800 tons of agricultural waste repurposed Received accolades and commendations from multiple local communities	
Scaled to 13 Indian states	2023 - Present
Empowerment of women farmers Educated 150 women farmers on policies, accessing formal credit, monetizing waste and coveted techniques every weekend ~250% increase in income observed ~5000 women reached through self-help groups	2023 1 resent
Lucited for Dadie Interview by Verela Veri	2025
Invited for Radio Interview by YeralaVani 80,000 listeners in 62 villages reached	
Spread awareness about credit access, monetizing waste and policies	
Invited for Sangli Podcast Series by MadeInSangli	2025
Biggest media house in the district with 116,000 followers	
	2024
Assisted Author of Arthatarang Book on Nuances of the Economy - Won Outstanding Book Award by Marathi Arthashastra Parishad.	2024
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AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCES AND RESEARCH	
Research Research Paper - How do variations in the HDI among BRICS countries correlate with the differences in agricultural policies and	2025
farmer welfare	
 With a case study of Sangli, this shows how nations influence agricultural policies and farmer welfare. 	
 Project Report - Exploring the Challenges Faced by Farmers in Repaying Agricultural Loans From field interviews from ~100 farmers, this analyses the reasons for bad debt 	2024
Research Paper - Studying the Success of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies over Commercial Banks in Delivering Agricultural	2024
 Credit Primary data from local credit societies and from my internship at Sangli Zilla Madhavarthi Bank 	
Research Paper - An Analysis on the Revival of Organic Farming in India evaluates organic farming in India and its history, field data, certification barriers and government schemes	2023
Research Paper - Understanding the Working of e-Choupal Analyses ITC's scheme e-Choupal and how the kiosks help improve market access, increase income and empower farmers	2023
Outreach Helped and Guided ~350 farmers file Income Tax Returns	2024 - Present
Courses Agriculture, Economics and Nature - University of Western Australia	2025

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP	
Winner, CaseQuest National Case Challenge	2025
Selected among 300 applicants Made an app to solve a problem statement of an Indian lifestyle brand	
Presented it to the founders, CEO and the Dean of BITSoM, one of India's leading business schools and received a personal recommendation	
The brand is now implementing my solution on their website	
Developed a biodegradable mulch; Applied Diana Award - Results Awaited	2024-2025
Alternative to plastic mulch; prevents water loss, fungal growth and fertilizer runoff in farmlands ~3 times cost reduced	
~40% reduction in water usage seen in trials	
Fungal growth substantially reduced	
LEADERSHIP	
Captain, National Level Basketball Team The Mark Control Climate Change Compatition and the product of the Control Climate Change Compatition and the product of the Control Climate Change Compatition and the Control Climate Change Chan	2021-2024
Team Leader , Oxford Climate Change Competition; made a product combining agricultural needs and chemistry Director , Rotaract Club of Andheri	2025 2024
Editor-in-Chief, School Newsletter	2021-2024
Student Council, Academic Head	2023
Organized School-Wide Debate Competition; Biggest student-led event of the year	2023
STEM PURSUITS	
Best Research Paper Award, Dive In Space; paper on Mars rover navigation, path optimization, and fuel-efficient strategies	2024
Best Student Award, Dive In Space; personal commendations from ISRO Scientist Dr. Sneha Gokani and Dr. Claudia Martinez-Calderon	2024
Founder and President, Math Club of SGI - the first club at school; raised average scores by $\sim 30\%$ of tutored students	2021-2024
Event Head, Math Club of PPSIJC; led events achieving highest participation	2024-2025
Developed an app showing cricket statistics for a local league	2024
Research Paper: Optimal Stopping in Equity Markets	2024
Statistical Modeling for Data Science Applications; University of Colorado Boulder	2025
Data Science Foundations: Statistical Inference; University of Colorado Boulder	2025
Econometrics : Methods and Applications; Erasmus University Rotterdam	
Introduction to Statistics; Stanford University	2024
CS50 HarvardX - Introduction to Computer Science; Harvard University	2024
	2024
COMMUNITY SERIVICE AND EMPOWERMENT	2022 P
Started Yearly Summer Workshop for ~120 children; tutors teach electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, agriculture and more	2023 - Present
Tutored Math to 2 underprivileged kids; raised scores from ~65% to ~98% in exams	2024
Team Member, Yerala Project Society; Founded to help deprived families, work includes Education, Women Empowerment, Climate and Water crisis.	2023 - Present
Coding Workshop for 120 Underprivileged Children	2024
Coordinator, Robin Hood Army , Sangli; Organized weekly drives and events, overlooked ~400 volunteers and reached ~2000 people in the community	2023-2024
Organizer, Health Checkup Camp (SUPW) ; Health Camp for 200+ Public School students across 2 schools in Panchgani (Tier-3 town)	2023
INTERNSHIPS AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	
Intern, Fractal Analytics; globally recognized AI Company; gained experience in financial inclusion models, learnt about procedures for the upcoming IPO of the firm	2025
Intern, Sangli Zilla Madhyavarthi Bank; biggest agriculture loan provider in the district; focused on agricultural credit and cooperative finance, with exposure to farmer lending practices	2024
Data Science Intern, GTT Data Solutions ; Data Analysis Company; Prepared client reports, earning personal commendations from the CEO and client.	2024
EXTRACURRICULARS	
Completed 4 courses from MIT OpenCourseWare; in topics from economics, statistics and mathematics	2024-2025
Managing portfolio of \$130,000 with 26% annual returns; Managing my parents' equity portfolio since last 2 years	2023- Present
Author, weekly article about economics and mathematics in the SGI Newsletter	2021-2024
Author, articles about mathematics in magazine Pi-oneers from Math Club of PPSIJC	2024
Research Paper: Nudge Theory; Incorporating a survey of 121 participants; completed for IIM, India's top business school	2023
Compere, TEDx Youth@PPSIJC; school's largest event of the year	2024
ATLAS SkillTech Summer School; developed a brand pitch that ranked 1st. Learnt finance, marketing, and market strategy from entrepreneurs and lecturers.	2024
Rank 1, District Level Cube Solving; Won among ~1000 competitors.	2023
Model United Nations; Selected among 50 applicants to participate in CAMUN	2024
Cricket ; team captain for 2 years, won 1st place both years; won best batter for 3 leagues consecutively.	2022-2024
Tennis; played in a local tournament every week for a year	2023