

Profile

Personal information

Name Goyal, Samik
Share different name No
Birthdate 03/17/2008

Contact details

Email, Phone [REDACTED]
Permanent address [REDACTED]

Demographics

Gender Identity Male
Sex Male
Pronouns He/Him
Military status None

Language

Hindi First Language, Speak, Read, Write, Spoken at Home
English Speak, Read, Write, Spoken at Home
Punjabi Speak, Read, Write

Geography and nationality

Citizenship status Citizen of non-U.S. country
Birthplace [REDACTED], India 0 years US
Other citizenships India
Current US Visa None

Common App fee waiver

Fee waiver requested No

Family

Household

Parents Married
Home Parent 1

Parent 1

Mother

Name [REDACTED]
Email, Phone [REDACTED]
Occupation [REDACTED]
Education [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Parent 2

Father

Name [REDACTED]
Email, Phone [REDACTED]
Occupation [REDACTED]
Education [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Education

Current or most recent secondary school

DAV Public School, Bhupindra Road, Patiala, Punjab, India, Independent (04/2024 - 03/2026)

Other St. Peter's Academy, Ajit Nagar, Patiala, Punjab, India, Religious (04/2012 - 03/2024)

Progression No change in progression

Graduation Date 03/2026

Colleges & universities

Grades

Rank na / 109

Current or most recent year courses

Full year

ENG - English Core - (REG)

PHYS - Physics - (REG)

CHEM - Chemistry - (REG)

MATH - Mathematics (Includes Calculus, Trigonometry, 3D Geometry, Matrices, and Probability) - (REG)

ART - Hindustani (Indian) Music Vocal - (REG)

Honors

Silver Medal, International 10
International Olympiad
in Informatics 2024,
Alexandria, Egypt

Silver Medal, International 11
International Olympiad
in Informatics 2025,
Sucre, Bolivia

Silver Medal, International 11

**International Olympiad
in Artificial Intelligence
2025, Beijing, China**

Paper accepted as poster presentation, The 4th Deep Learning for Code (DL4C) workshop, NeurIPS 2025	International	12
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Research project selected among the top 120 at IRIS National Fair 2026, a feeder fair for ISEF.	National	12
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Future plans

Scientific researcher, Doctorate

Testing

SAT tests

Evidence-based Reading and Writing	800	12/07/2024
Math	800	12/07/2024
Taken	1	
Planned	0	
SAT Essay	No	

AP Subject Tests

Calculus BC	5	05/2025
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IELTS

Listening	9	09/10/2025
Reading	9	09/10/2025
Writing	8	09/10/2025
Speaking	7.5	09/10/2025
Overall	8.5	09/10/2025
Taken	1	
Planned	0	

Leaving Exams

English Lang & Lit	95	02/2024, Actual, CBSE
Hindi Course B	94	02/2024, Actual, CBSE
Mathematics Standard	100	03/2024, Actual, CBSE
Science	94	03/2024, Actual, CBSE
Social Science	95	03/2024, Actual, CBSE
Information Technology	95	03/2024, Actual, CBSE
Punjabi	92	02/2024, Actual, CBSE

Activities

Research

12
Year
35 hr/wk, 3 wk/yr
Continue

Researcher
I created a subtask-based benchmark for evaluating LLMs on coding tasks. This was accepted as a poster at NeurIPS 2025 and IRIS National Fair 2026.

Computer/Technology

11, 12
Year
5 hr/wk, 40 wk/yr
Continue

Co-founder, SPOI (Shortest Path to IOI)
Co-founded an initiative to teach informatics to school children with 300+ students. Managed finances, drafted internal rules, and mentored students.

Research

11
Year
35 hr/wk, 4 wk/yr
Continue

Researcher
I developed a novel system for translating legal documents into vernacular languages. As a part of the project, I surveyed over 26 law professionals.

Community Service (Volunteer)

11, 12
Year
5 hr/wk, 20 wk/yr
Continue

Founder, Sadhya
Founded an NGO providing educational resources to underprivileged rural students. Supported 2,500+ children across 20+ schools.

Career Oriented

12
Year
5 hr/wk, 14 wk/yr
Continue

Grantee, Emergent Ventures, Mercatus Center, George Mason University
Was awarded a USD 11,500 grant to develop SPOI. Learned to pitch my idea.

Research

12
Break
1 hr/wk, 1 wk/yr
CA Goyal, Samik CEEB: Fall 2026

Accepted Participant, RSI-India
Selected for RSI-India (did not attend), a highly selective national STEM research program at IISc Bangalore modelled after the RSI program at

FY RD CAID: XXXXXXXXXX

Continue

MIT.

Research

11, 12

Year

10 hr/wk, 4 wk/yr

Continue

Participant, Non-Trivial

Was accepted to and completed the Research Foundations Program. Learned how to identify viable, impactful research topics and research methodology.

Junior R.O.T.C.

9, 10

Year

10 hr/wk, 4 wk/yr

Cadet (Air wing), National Cadet Corps

Participated in NCC drills, events, and camps. Developed discipline and teamwork.

Responsibilities and circumstances

- None of these
- Commuting 60 minutes or more to and from school each day

Writing

Personal essay

Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

I come from a small city in India. Most students in my city pursue competitive university entrance examinations in high school. The same was expected of me. I saw people all around me rote memorising concepts and formulas instead of understanding where they come from and why. I was solving questions, but the concepts themselves were like black boxes. I yearned for more. I wanted to do more than just scratch the surface of every subject. I desired to follow my passion for mathematics and programming. I knew basic Python and started looking for ways to apply it in practice, such as projects or competitions. That's when I found out about the Informatics Olympiad. I tried a few problems, and I fell in love. The solutions were derived from first principles rather than from an advanced topic I was supposed to know from a book. This drove me to prepare for the Informatics Olympiad.

In my second attempt, I succeeded in the national round. The biggest reason for my victory was my mindset: instead of cramming solutions, tricks, and methods, I began deriving and building my solutions from scratch, relying on intuition. For example, a problem involved guiding two agents on a tree to the root. I modelled it as a network of roads in my mind. My solution was inspired by how road signs guide traffic. In another problem, I had to approximate a sum using queries, so I thought of how a human would do it. This led me to ask queries which eliminated the largest number of possibilities. However, the real turning point came when I attended the training camp.

Simultaneously, I was enrolled in a full-time coaching program for the JEE university entrance examination, something that millions of unwilling Indians like me are forced to join because of the exam-driven academic culture. I faced a hard choice. Preparing for the Olympiad Camp meant I would miss many JEE classes and potentially waste my parents' money on coaching. However, I decided to take the risk and quit coaching for two months to prepare for the team selection test. I realised that to grow beyond the expected and satisfy my inner hunger and potential, I had to take risks. Moreover, I could rejoin coaching in case it did not work out.

Participation in the Olympiad Camp meant I could meet many new and amazing people. At training camps, students from all over the country came, each a master in their own niche discipline. One had just graduated from high school and already had a YC-backed startup; another had won a ton of hackathons, nationally and internationally. Meeting such experts led me to explore many opportunities I otherwise would not have known about.

They gave me the confidence and guidance to start building things. With this spirit, I started SPOI, a startup that teaches informatics online to school students in India, to fill the gaps in Olympiad preparation I had faced. My mind began seeing obstacles in real life as problems waiting to be solved. When the quality of lectures became an issue, I sought funding to buy better equipment; when turnout for mock competitions dropped, I introduced food-based rewards to encourage participation; and when I noticed students dropping off during long lectures, I introduced TikTok-style, extremely short and dense explanations of topics.

What began as a journey to understand subjects fundamentally has become a drive to impact the

real world. I no longer see the world as a collection of black boxes to be accepted, but as a system of challenges that I can debug.

Additional information

I was unable to attend RSI-India as it was sandwiched between the national team selection for the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) and the International stage. Since I had also qualified for the IOAI (International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence), I had to fly directly from IOI-2025 to IOAI-2025, and this complicated my travel. To arrange the multiple visas and vaccinations needed, along with figuring out the travel route and coordinating between the national agencies for both the olympiads, I needed time and therefore could not attend RSI-India.

Education progression

Details

Education progression details No change in progression

Required explanation

Secondary school change

A national examination board conducts the final 10th Grade examination in India. After this, the schooling system is changed (in 11th and 12th Grade) to allow students to choose their stream (Sciences, Commerce, or Arts). My older school was known to be the most rigorous school in my city till 10th grade, and my current school (DAV Public School, Patiala) is known to be the most rigorous in 11th and 12th grade.

Courses & Grades

Course levels legend

REG - Regular/standard
ACC - Accelerated
ADV - Advanced
AP - Advanced placement
Cambridge AICE AS A-Level - AS/A-level/International A-level, Cambridge AICE
C PREP - College prep
DUAL - Dual enrollment
ENRCHD - Enriched
Cambridge IGCSE - GCSE, IGCSE
GFTED - Gifted
HGH HNR - High honors
HON - Honors
INTSV - Intensive
IB - International Baccalaureate
PRE IB - Pre-international Baccalaureate
RGNTS - Regents
N/A - Not applicable

Non-numeric/letter grade legend

I - Incomplete
NG - No grade
F - Fail (Pass/Fail)
P - Pass (Pass/Fail)
S - Satisfactory
U - Unsatisfactory
W - Withdrawn
WF - Withdrawn (Failed)
ME - Medical excuse

Grade 9

St. Peter's Academy, Ajit Nagar, Patiala, Punjab, India, Religious

School Year 2022-23

Schedule Yearly

Subject	Course Name	Level	Grades (1-100)	Credits
			Final	Final
ENG	English Lang & Lit	REG	82	N/A
LANG	Hindi Course B	REG	73	N/A
MATH	Mathematics Standard	REG	99	N/A
SCI	Science	REG	93	N/A
HIST	Social Science	REG	90	N/A
LANG	Punjabi	REG	74	N/A
COMPSCI	Information Technology	REG	90	N/A

Grade 10

St. Peter's Academy, Ajit Nagar, Patiala, Punjab, India, Religious

School Year 2023-24
Schedule Yearly

Subject	Course Name	Level	Grades (1-100)	Credits
			Final	Final
ENG	English Lang & Lit	REG	95	N/A
LANG	Hindi Course B	REG	94	N/A
MATH	Mathematics Standard	REG	100	N/A
SCI	Science	REG	94	N/A
HIST	Social Science	REG	95	N/A
COMPSCI	Information Technology	REG	95	N/A
LANG	Punjabi	REG	92	N/A

Grade 11

DAV Public School, Bhupindra Road, Patiala, Punjab, India, Independent

School Year 2024-25
Schedule Yearly

Subject	Course Name	Level	Grades (1-100)	Credits
			Final	Final
PHYS	Physics	REG	77	N/A
CHEM	Chemistry	REG	90	N/A
MATH	Mathematics	REG	86	N/A
ENG	English Core	REG	92	N/A
ART	Hindustani Music Vocal	REG	86	N/A

Grade 12

No courses reported.

Other courses

No courses reported.