My Story

Ever since my school years, I have always been interested in Mathematics, History and Literature. This interest led me to pursue a career in science and engineering. During my later years I slowly gravitated towards the fascinating world of computers and electronics. I chose electronics as my vocal subject in high school and decided to keep it as a major for my Bachelor's degree.

While studying in my sophomore year in engineering, I realised that my interests were more towards software rather than hardware. Hence, I decided to explore computer science. I completed multiple online courses on topics like data science, machine learning and deep learning through online platforms as well as a few internships. I became proficient in Python and C with the help of online tools as well as self-study. In order to apply my newly acquired skills, I designed a facial recognition system using OpenCV and python and mounted it on a Raspberry pi and scored an 'A' grade. After which I cemented my decision to work in programming and AI. The growing interest in coding and algorithms led me to select 'Facial Emotion Recognition using Deep Learning' as the topic of my major project. During my Engineering, I also kept my love for literature by starting a book club and volunteering as a curator.

After graduation I took some time off to hone my leadership and management skills. In order to get a taste of the real world, I organised an event 'TEDxTarabaiPark'. . In September, an emerging start-up VedBiz Technologies offered me an internship in their analytics department. I worked on various analytical as well as machine learning related projects. Some of them were 'Sentiment analysis of political news articles' and 'News article segmentation of newspapers through CNN'. I learned various analytics tools like pandas, seaborn, matplotlib. I also explored the workings of GPU and parallel processing. I created a web based U.I. using Django web framework to visualize the analysed data for clients and learned SQL to manage and maintain databases. During my internship, I got an opportunity to work on building custom multi-class object detection and deploying models as well as analysing various forms of data including DNA and gene data. However due to lack of challenging projects and learning opportunities I have decided to look for other ventures to further my growth.

AI is an amazing field and is growing exponentially. I would love nothing more than to be a part of this growth and contribute to this field.

- In the next thirty years:
  - During the first ten years I would like to develop my skills and further my education. Earn a Master's degree and become well versed in this field.
  - After that, I hope to start my own venture in India, where I can use my knowledge and skills to create efficient solutions for the problems in India.
  - I would love to retire early and pursue my other interests such as travelling and teaching.

- I imagine that a well qualified engineer would be the best way to go forward. But as written in your company's bio, skills can be picked up but dedication is required. I might not be the most qualified or skilled engineer but I can assure you that I would be the most dedicated one. Even if I have to work 8.00am to 8.00pm six days a week in order to achieve the excellency standard of this company I will be happy to do so. As long as I'm learning something, I'm willing to give it my 100%

- In my experience, If the institution in question is not a premier one such as IITs, NITs etc it hardly matters. The education level is almost the same and it would be better to prioritize courses over college as that could play a big part in your career. Majority of the learning is going to be done by studying on your own. If you take a less desirable course just to get the institution name, you can be stuck with a degree you don't want for little to no benefit.

- My college professors would describe me as someone who has not so exemplary grades yet smart enough to complete extra-curricular projects and productive ventures.
  Someone who has great communication skills and is willing to learn anything and everything.

- Three things I learned about life:
  - You'll always figure something out.

    No matter how daunting the task looks, as long as you keep at it you can figure it out. This challenge was particularly hard because C++ is not my preferred language and it was very hard to create an engine which was fast enough and accurate. It felt like writing an essay in Russian, I knew what I was supposed to do, just didn't know how to do it. Thousands of github and stackoverflow links later, I was successful in completing it.

  - Comparing is stupid

    Everyone who compares his life with someone else's will always find it to be worse. We all have our highs and lows. And if you have more lows than others there is not really anything that you can do about it. Just power through.

  - Things are never going to be perfect

    As general Patton would say, *"A good plan violently executed right now is far better than a perfect plan executed next week*." There is never going to be a perfect time to do something. Life is always going to be messy, we need to find a way to make the most of it.

- I tend to avoid asking for help if I'm in a pickle. This is usually because of my fear about being judged and self-consciousness. I try to find solutions on my own through my own research and I would definitely try to change that. On a lighter note I would blast my playlist consisting of anything from classic rock to Marathi songs on a bluetooth speaker.

- At this stage of my life, I want to go deep rather than wide. I would like to perfect something even if it takes time instead of trying to push as many features as I can. I'm aware that in a practical situation, time plays a crucial role and I would definitely be mindful of that but it won't be done by compromising on quality.