STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Every day, I read news articles about Artificial Intelligence acting unethically or invading privacy. This deeply concerns me. Why are so many organizations prioritizing profits over people's rights? This disconnect between technology's potential to improve our lives and its misuse fuels my desire for change. How can we build powerful AI without sacrificing privacy? I believe we can, and I want to be part of the solution. Motivated by this, I founded "SocialXChange", a privacy-focused digital asset social platform. We introduced the concept of "Dumb AI," which learns only from the data users willingly provide, making handling private information more transparent and secure. We aim to create a safe space where users enjoy freedom and privacy while ensuring the platform's security. I envision a future where AI and blockchain work together to create a decentralized, ethical, and transparent web that protects individual rights while fostering innovation. Integrating blockchain technology can democratize how the web operates, reducing the dominance of major tech giants.

My academic journey has been one of exploration and discovery. When I began my undergraduate studies, I had no experience in programming. Learning to code in my first semester gave me the power to build useful things. I started creating projects across various domains and freelanced to build web applications for startups, students, and clubs. I also delved deeply into blockchain technology, exploring various architectures and understanding the unique use cases each one offers. My journey began with mining cryptocurrencies and minting NFTs, allowing me to gain hands-on experience in the technical processes that sustain digital assets. To share my growing knowledge, I conducted seminars on blockchain at my college's Association of Computing Machinery. These sessions helped my peers grasp complex blockchain concepts and reinforced my understanding of how and where blockchain can be effectively utilized. Additionally, I started two e-commerce businesses, managing all the technical aspects myself. Balancing these ventures with my academic pursuits was challenging, and I faced numerous setbacks. However, each failure was a valuable learning opportunity, teaching me resilience and the importance of continuous improvement.

In my third year, despite my efforts, I failed to secure an internship. Feeling like a jack of all trades but a master of none, I questioned my approach. Realizing I was spreading myself too thin, I decided to focus solely on academics for three months, reevaluating my priorities. This shift paid off when I secured one of the highest-paying job offers from my college. The next day, I reignited my entrepreneurial spirit by launching CornerInk, a custom merchandising platform for apparel and promotional items. As customer inquiries grew, I integrated an AI-powered chatbot to manage queries efficiently, enabling us to stay lean and focus on strategic growth. Within its first year, CornerInk earned INR eight lakhs, serving corporations, colleges, and food chains. This achievement is a testament to the impact of focused planning and innovation.

I have always been driven to solve real-world problems. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I developed "CoviProtec" to streamline vaccine bookings, created a hand sign recognition system to assist the deaf, and a video lecture summarization tool with automatic quiz generation to support online education. These experiences reinforced my belief in AI's transformative power and ignited my passion for designing scalable, high-impact solutions.

Starting my professional career, I joined the Chief Technology Office at Wells Fargo as a Software Engineer. Working in observability and foundational automation introduced me to a new realm in fintech. My manager encouraged me to understand and integrate various products to create value. I quickly built a dashboard that is now used globally by over 12,000 technology users and command centers to monitor critical applications like credit cards, ATMs, and payment systems, aiding in issue identification and decision-making. I also independently developed a self-service portal that automates the onboarding of applications into the logging ecosystem reducing manual workload by 80%. These projects earned me recognition at the leadership level, and I was given the opportunity to work across multiple teams. Since then, I have explored various domains, building automation, smart dashboards, anomaly detection systems, and AI models to automate tasks.

Working with diverse technologies and focusing on automation, I realized the vast potential of AI. However, I also became concerned that we might be ignoring the risks while focusing solely on the benefits. These experiences deepened my interest in AI ethics and safety. While I am excited by AI's rapid advancements, I am equally determined to address challenges such as data privacy, algorithmic bias, energy consumption, and the ethical use of information.

My experiences span technology and entrepreneurship, from founding a privacy-focused social platform to leading automation in fintech. This blend gives me a practical, business-driven perspective grounded in ethical responsibility. I can share insights on topics like data privacy, responsible innovation, and startup methodologies. while valuing diverse viewpoints. I look forward to collaborating with peers across disciplines and contributing my technical expertise, entrepreneurial resilience, and global outlook to enrich our collective learning.

At Cornell, programs like Entrepreneurship at Cornell (EaC), the eLab Student Accelerator, and Blackstone LaunchPad can help transform my ideas into viable ventures. Meanwhile, courses like Cornell Tech Studio foster interdisciplinary collaboration, allowing me to explore real-world applications of AI and blockchain. I am also inspired by the research of Professor Vitaly Shmatikov, whose focus on privacy-preserving machine learning aligns with my commitment to responsible AI development. His work exemplifies the kind of forward-thinking approach that not only addresses current technological challenges but also anticipates their broader societal impact. Altogether, Cornell's combination of research expertise, hands-on startup support, and commitment to ethical innovation makes it an ideal setting for pursuing my goals.

In the short term, I aspire to build a startup that leverages Ethical AI and Blockchain to serve everyday users, fostering safer and more accessible digital ecosystems. I aim to establish open-source, decentralized mechanisms for creating ethical AI and data applications. In the long run, I plan to lead initiatives to develop a more ethical landscape for AI applications, ensuring that technology serves humanity equitably.