I, Archit Agrawal, was born on September 17, 2001, just six days after those 9/11 attacks. My parents kept saying that to me because I was really mischievous. An incident I would like to share when I was five years old. My granny was ill so we had to visit her. Seven in the evening, my mother was busy in packing and I asked my mother to give me five rupees. She was busy so she said to take the money from her purse. As I was really mischievous, I took that five-rupee coin and put it in my mouth. What happened next is the coin got stuck in my throat. I was unable to breathe, and I couldn’t speak. I went to my father and tried to explain him using my hands. He couldn’t understand at first but he realized that something is stuck in my throat and started stabbing my back, but it didn’t work. He quickly realized that there is not enough time to take me to a hospital, so he opened my mouth, took two fingers deep down my throat and took the coin out of my throat. I survived. Since then, my behavior changed.

At school, I was a good student. Right from the start, I made a lot of friends. I was pretty amiable. I was good in sports too, especially cricket and football. At the end of 10th standard, my elder brothers guided me to join ans institute for preparation for IIT-JEE. I was sent to Lucknow for coaching, being in a dummy school for 11th and 12th standard. I performed well at starting but my performances became average with time. I got carried away and it reflected in my JEE results. However, I scored good in 12th standard and determined to prepare for JEE.

My brothers took me to Bengaluru after 12th, guided by them, I started self- studying. I devoted a lot of time to preparation this time. Apart from studies, I started to learn other things, some of them are piano and guitar. I kept preparing for JEE and this time I was pretty confident that I will crack JEE and I did.

Coming to IIITV has opened up a new world for me. Students here are talking about stuffs I have never heard before. For now, I wish that the pandemic ends soon so that I get a chance to visit the institute, meet my batchmates and study and enjoy the next four years with them.