

Dear Dave,

I know you receive thousands of applications. So, let me kindly ask you not to dismiss this as just another AI-generated cover letter. I've spent an embarrassingly long time writing this because I want it to accurately convey my excitement for joining Shape and this role.

## Why do you want to join Shape?

Upon reading your letter, I couldn't help but notice how much I relate to the same principles you have regarding people. I strive to be a person who is authentic, cares about the people around me and act with "kindness rather than niceness" as you put it. And I expect people around me to also care about these same values.

Don't believe me? Here's an excerpt from a letter I received yesterday on my birthday from one of my friends:

In honor of you turning a year cooler, wiser, and more you, here are 25 reasons why you're the best:

...

8. You push yourself to grow constantly. It's wild and admirable.

9. You cheer others on while working on yourself, a rare combo.

10. ...

11. You keep it real - no sugarcoating, no performative kindness.

And, as somebody who is constantly pushing themselves to grow, I am thrilled to hear about Shape's dedication to provide not just a conducive environment, but also professional help to get there fast.

So, I am really excited to work at a place where these values are not just on paper but professionally maintained as an active focus.

## If you joined, where do you think you could make the most impact and how?

As a software engineer who has been working with a product company that uses Ruby on Rails catering to enterprises, I am confident that I could make an impact in the organisation right away.

I believe my specialised experience working as a performance engineer over the last year also provides me with a niche expertise in identifying and fixing common performance related issues especially in Ruby on Rails codebases.

At the heart of my development philosophy is a commitment to craftsmanship. This means championing readability, scalability, and thorough testing following TDD practices in every step of the way. I proactively champion missing processes that enhance the users' experience as well as the experience of the fellow people I am working with. For example, in my current team I advocated and introduced code quality diagnostic tools that not only helped people write better code but also reduced fatigue for the peer reviewers.

I'm eager to bring my technical expertise, commitment to craftsmanship, and common values to Shape's mission. The opportunity to collaborate with a team that prioritises authenticity, growth, and meaningful impact feels like the natural next step in my journey, one where I can contribute meaningfully while continuing to constantly learn and thrive.

Thank you for considering my application and for reading through this entire letter! I'd love to discuss how my background and passion align with Shape's vision, and I'm excited about the possibility of contributing to a culture that turns these shared principles into tangible outcomes in building civilisation.

# Yuvaraj J

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Software Development Engineer II, Chronus

Jan 2023 - Present

- Played a key role in developing **4 new feature releases**, significantly improving UI/UX, resulting in an improved System Usability Scale (SUS) score from **72.6 to 92.1**.
- Developed and tested features using **Ruby on Rails**, ensuring **high-quality code** by writing tests with **Minitest**.
- Optimized front-end performance without scaling infrastructure, reducing global **average page load times from 2.08 to 1.64 seconds** as part of the **Performance team**.

### Software Engineer, Casaretail.ai

Aug 2020 - Dec 2022

- Developed **6+ key platform features** using **React.js**, **Node.js**, and **PostgreSQL**, enhancing both front-end user experience and back-end efficiency.
- Implemented and owned **Retensee**, an omnichannel loyalty rewards program with **100k+ active users**, driving customer engagement and retention.
- Advocated for and implemented **test coverage metrics**, improving test coverage from **32% to 73%** within one year, resulting in higher code reliability and fewer production issues.
- **Migrated cloud infrastructure** from **Google Cloud Platform (GCP) to Azure**, optimizing performance and improving scalability.

### Software Developer Intern, Komparify

May 2019 - Aug 2019

- Worked on porting **Flixjini mobile app** for various TV platforms like FireTV, Android, and Apple.
- Used **REST APIs** for the TV apps functionality.

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

### Webmaster, SVCE ACM Student Chapter

May 2019 - Apr 2020

- **Led a web development team of 9 members** for the SVCE ACM Student Chapter, overseeing project planning, task delegation, and execution to **enhance the chapter's online presence and user experience**.
  - Created and maintained the [official website](#) and [hackathon registration website](#) for the chapter.
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## TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Languages:** Ruby, Javascript, Python, SQL, HTML, CSS

**Web Technologies:** Rails, Django, React, Node, jQuery, Bootstrap, Tailwind

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## PROJECTS & WORKS

### Regional Library Management Software - [Repository](#)

- Built a **library management software** using **Rails**, **Stimulus**, **PostgreSQL**, and **Heroku**.
- Developed functionalities to manage books, members, and book rentals along with **full-text search** and ability to support multiple languages with **i18n**.
- Actively used by a library with **500+ members**.

### Midday-meals monitoring using Meraki MV Sense - SIH Project - [Repository](#)

- **Led a team of 6** to coordinate between ML, mobile app, and backend of the project.
- Created REST API using **Django REST framework** to be consumed by the mobile app and ML module.
- Set up and managed **MQTT brokers** to communicate between Meraki MV Sense camera and ML module.
- **Won the Smart India Hackathon** and a cash prize of **₹100000** for this project.

### Open Source Contributions

- **Joplin** - [\[Merged\]](#) API: Fix tags update on updating a note
  - **Joplin** - [\[Merged\]](#) Desktop: Use system keychain for storing passwords
  - **Joplin** - [\[Merged\]](#) CLI: Implemented configurable layout for terminal
  - **PostHog** - [\[Merged\]](#) Adds password reveal functionality to password inputs.
  - **PostHog** - [\[Merged\]](#) Allow duplicating dashboards. [Recognized as the community MVP](#).
  - **Discourse** - [\[Merged\]](#) FIX: Notify mailing list subscribers on category change
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## EDUCATION

Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering, Chennai, India

GPA: 8.9/10.0

Bachelor of Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering

Coursework: Programming and Data Structures, Design and Analysis of Algorithms, Operating Systems, Computer Architecture, Machine learning, Internet Programming, Artificial Intelligence, Information Retrieval Techniques.