

Grey Orange Robotics

- By Manan Madan

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The Beginning:

Nothing explains the term “humble beginning” as well as the beginning of GreyOrange.

Sitting at the head as Chief Technology Officer and co-founder is Akash Gupta.



Co-founder and CTO Akash Gupta;

Credits: YourStory

Gupta came from a small district in Uttar Pradesh called Auraiya- around 400-500 kilometers away from Delhi. He was a son of a railway clerk who was, of course, whisked away into the IIT-JEE race when in high school. This is how he became enrolled in an engineering college in 2008.

Gupta is a graduate in Mechanical Engineering from Birla Institute of Technology, Pilani who has had a strong interest in humanoid robotics from his college days. (Humanoid Robots are robots that look and appear like humans and are imparted with extremely humane characteristics overall. Sophia the robot is the most popular example today.)

Gupta realized that solving equations or numerical had its place in engineering but his true interest lay in bringing things to life when he saw a senior of his in-school make a robot.

Gupta got together with this senior he was inspired by- Samay Kohli and venture head-on into humanoid robotics. For around 18 hours out of 24 Gupta and Kohli

dedicated their college life to building things from the ground up- automated machines, contraptions, and robotics- you name it. Using these contraptions they also entered themselves into multiple robotics competitions around the world.



Samay Kohli; Credits: LiveMint

It was on one such expedition in the United States when the two robotics fanatics came across Thomas Chance, the former CEO of C&C technologies- a company that specialized in autonomous underwater vehicles.

They showed up at his door after the university they were competing in had some internal issues and then diverted the two as mentees to Chance.

After tinkering around with all the motors, parts, and gears they had they had flawlessly working image processing systems to show to Thomas Chance which was the challenge. The duo was a well-oiled machine- just like their robots.

GreyOrange:

The long hours of work together, the competitions, the partnered mentorships- are all the forged Samay Kohli and Akash Gupta for life. They both had internally understood roles and specializations.

"I was always the person who went super deep into technology, while Samay (Kohli) was the person who liked defining more of the product part, defining overall business and things like that." Gupta said.

The decision was easy. Kohli became CEO and Gupta became CTO.

After founding the company the two went on to pick engineers, many of whom were freshers, since the experienced guys in the industry were few, far between, and expensive to get for a youngling company.

One of the first big projects GreyOrange took on was of a butler system but for a warehouse. Essentially a system that had a scissor lift mechanism for warehouses along with safety, navigation, and communication system.

Making this “butler” from scratch was a hefty project and the ambition of the founders was large too.

Finally, when the first prototype came out, the challenge became of scaling which again took about 9 months. It was three years from conception is when the project became ready