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### **LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

It gives me great pleasure and honor to recommend Mr. Pranav Nerurkar for the position. During the last three years, he has worked under my supervision on his Doctoral Research titled “Investigation of latent space representation models on social networks” in the Department of Computer engineering and Information Technology. Apart from research activities, he is also involved in Grant writing, Laboratory development, Academic quality monitoring and Teaching. I am a member of his Research Progression Committee and can attest to the fact that his performance in academics and research has been above par consistently for the past three years.

As a doctoral student, Pranav is involved in Development of Deep learning and Artificial intelligence (AI) based representation learning models. He has completed courses from Coursera.org on “Machine learning” and “Deep Learning” in preparation for this task. His doctoral research is on “Representation learning techniques” – these are essentially models that learn low dimension representation of high dimension data. He has published his research in international peer-reviewed journals and at international conferences at reputed institutions in India and abroad. His research ability can be gauged from the fact that his H-index on scopus and google scholar is 2 and he has 62 citations to his credit.

Apart from his research activities, he has assisted in submitting research proposals to National and State regulatory bodies as well as Science and Technology institutions. His proposal to Department of Science and Technology was awarded a grant of Rs. 11 lacs in 2019. To understand the applications of his research for the societal benefits he undertook an internship of 8 weeks at the School of Disaster Studies at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. During the course of the research, I have realized that he has exemplary technical skills and has the ability to coordinate well in a group by contributing with valuable inputs from time to time. He has also developed an excellent working relationship with his peers which highlights his inter-personal skills. I believe that his stronghold over fundamental concepts along with an ability to expand his knowledge further would eventually propel him to establish a successful career in research.

I attest that Pranav has the necessary abilities and accomplishments to succeed. He has my highest recommendation and heartfelt wishes for his endeavors.

**Dr. Sunil G. Bhirud**

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