

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I was lucky to have my hands on a computer from the time I was born. My passion for computers started quite early in my childhood. I remember the times when our computers used to have Windows 98, less than 1 GB of hard disk, 128 MB of RAM. I remember my father using a dial-up modem to send an email which used to emit nostalgic sounds when it connected to the internet. I have seen computers evolve from that to the sophisticated machines they are today.

Coming from a rural background and a conservative family, I did not have many opportunities growing up. However, I tried my best to not let that stop me, and I always tried to do my best. I was the best in my class in Computer Science and the only one who could grasp java programming without any external help. I even taught Java programming to many of my friends.

For my bachelors, I had to choose Mechanical Engineering for my major due to family pressure. However, my interest stayed with Computer Science. In my bachelors, I was the guy who others would come to with their computer related problems. After my degree got completed in July 2019, I knew it would be hard to start from scratch in Computer Science, but I was adamant to pursue my passion and spent 7 months studying the core Computer Science subjects. I appeared for the GATE CSE examination in 2020 where I secured an All India Rank of 239 among 97481 candidates. I received admission offers from all the top IITs and decided to pursue my M.Tech in Computer Science & Engineering at *Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur*.

I was constantly seeking to learn new skills and gain experience from various extracurricular activities during my bachelors. My team secured 1st prize in the college annual Robotics competition for the best autonomous robot as well as the best manual robot. I had participated in workshops on Android organized by HCL India and “*Ideathon 2017*” organized by the *National Knowledge Network*. I was also in the organizing committee for many workshops organized by the institute. I’ve been an editor on *gateoverflow.in* where I add new GATE CSE questions and answers on the website and mentor future GATE CSE applicants in their computer science journey. I was the maintenance head of my hostel for 2 years and did my best to improve the living conditions in the hostel for students as well as the workers. I am proud of being an active participant in the *Fridays for Future* global movement in Lucknow city for climate change awareness.

I believe that further education in the world of Computer Science will allow me to innovate while being at the heart of what I think our future will be like. I particularly look forward to learning about *Cyber Security* and *Adversarial Machine Learning* and how we plan to tackle the challenges of improving its applications in securing computer

systems. I am excited to explore the world of *Artificial Intelligence* and how it will shape the future of humanity.

I thank you so much for reading, and I hope you find me worthy of this meritorious scholarship.

SAMBHRANT MAURYA