STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

I, Shreekar Puranik, bearing ID number 2020A7PS0035P am standing for the post of Batch Representative for 2020 Batch electorate A

The following is my statement of purpose

My father is a doctor, and my mother is a medical coder. So they never expected me to take up an interest in Engineering, let alone CS. But when I was in 6th, I watched The Apprentice, a TV show about business, and it pulled me in. After researching a bit more, I saw a great word - startup. Which was the best college for startups? BITS! And so began my coaching. After two and a half years of coaching, extended due to the pandemic, I finally did well in the BITSAT, and it was a great feeling to call myself a Bitsian.

It only took me a few days of looking up the college rankings, the campus tours on youtube, the placements, and startup statistics to realise that this was a dream college. Recently, India Today also called us the number 1 private college in India. But I disagree. I think that we're the number 1 **college** in India, even better than the IITs. Is there any other college with such a tremendous startup culture? Is there any other high-level college where the professors aren't egomaniacs? And of course, we fare much better than the IITs in terms of suicide numbers as well as caste discrimination. Recently IIT madras was accused of casteism, and I don't need to tell you that such an incident is unimaginable in BITS Pilani.

But there is one thing that I can't comment on, and that is the campus. I've found myself trying not to look at campus pics and videos too much so that I can still be surprised when I arrive at campus, and I'm not the only student to do this. It is insulting to not know what the ANC even is when old friends who aren't even Bitsians have been on campus and know what it is. And we understand that we can't expect the campus to reopen during the pandemic, and we're not being unreasonable. But our third semester is quickly approaching, and we're having to face the reality that it might be our **last chance** to see the campus before our incoming juniors. And we have work to do, for our juniors, and for ourselves.

Having founded a non-profit in 11th grade, and subsequently being invited to speak at the UN, I know that working with the institute to reopen the campus will take patience, persistence, and emotion. As someone with experience organising CPR workshops and teaching in schools and apartments, I appreciate that bringing the class back to campus will not be easy and will need determination. Moreover, as a member of the youth board of an NGO called Reap Benefit, I realize the importance of leadership in making any project successful. The Youth Board has also given me the experience to handle different problems as they come and go.

We're not going to get to campus with SU politics. We're not going to get to campus with a dormant Batch Rep. We're going to get to campus through hard work, activity, and most of all, emotion. We have great challenges and great opportunities, and with your help, we will meet them and make this next year the best year in our history!

"If You Are Working On Something That You Really Care About, You Don't Have To Be Pushed. The Vision Pulls You." – Steve Jobs

MANIFESTO

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of Batch Representative for 2020 Batch A

The following are my manifesto points:

1. **Reduce workload during the online semester**
   a. Encourage professors to maintain uniformity in terms of all the quizzes, slides and videos
      i. Ask all professors to upload slides, recorded videos on Nalanda / google classroom / google drive, and not different materials in different places etc.
      ii. If any professor keeps a quiz on the same day as other quizzes, then the batch rep should immediately mail him/her about it
   b. Every course should have a minimum of 1 buffer, and no quiz should have a weightage of more than 13%
2. **A definitive push to go back to campus**
   a. Vaccination drive on campus, not just for students but for the workers as well (With Birla Sarvajenik hospital, or Kalpavriksha hospital) (like IIT Bombay) (for the single vaccinated students, so that they may come to campus and receive their second dose)
   b. An SU-backed batch wide census to see how many people are vaccinated/ half-vaccinated etc.
   c. Support the current SOP presented by the SU, which states that optimistically doubly-vaccinated students can start 2-1 offline
3. **Help make the online semester less stressful and more fun**
   a. Hold bi-monthly ice-breaker events for students who had trouble making friends online, hosted by a different club. Eg. Talent show, online gaming competition etc.