

**COMMUNITY AND CRISIS SECRETARY
STUDENT WELFARE**



VOTE

**JULY 26
ON ERP**

Aaditri
VAIBHAV

**SN/IG HALL
GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS**

Statement of Purpose

(UNOFFICIAL)

Aaditri Vaibhav | Community & Crisis, Student
Welfare Secretary candidate| Elections, 2021

NOTE: If you don't want to read the entire SOP I'd really appreciate it if you could skip to the "Measures I would take" section (page 4) and at least read that part nicely. Thanks!

Introduction

I'm a first-year undergraduate in the department of **Geology & Geophysics** and I'm a boarder of **Sarojini Naidu/Indira Gandhi Hall** of Residence. I am contesting for the post of **Community & Crisis Secretary, Student Welfare** in the upcoming Gymkhana Elections, 2021.

In this document, I shall try to answer 3 major questions in a way which seeks to prove that I am a worthy candidate for the aforesaid post. These questions are:

- **What relevant qualities and traits do I have which make me think I can take up such an important responsibility?**
- **What vision do I have and what exactly is the reason I want to be elected to this post?**
- **If I were to win, what measures would I take, and in what direction, to ensure the best results during my tenure?**

Aside from these, if you have any specific questions and/or general questions, you can mail them to me at aaditri.vaibhav@gmail.com. I shall post it with an answer on my website (www.aadhi-tree.com) soon enough.

MY TRAITS AND QUALITIES

1. Empathetic and good at communicating

As a secretary, I'll be a bridge between the students and the authorities. If I am to represent their sentiments, I must be able to understand them fully and realize the gravity of their concerns. The point at which I empathize with them, I won't see this as a job, but a responsibility.

At the same time, communication skills are important when it comes to conveying either party's concerns or plans to the other one. Whether it is a student feeling uncomfortable in sharing his or her problems with me, or the authorities overlooking an issue because I failed to convince them to address it, I think these would be the biggest mistakes a Community & Crisis Secretary can make. I believe I will be good at not letting these

happen. Additionally, I'm fluent in English as well as Hindi and I'll make sure the concerns of any student aren't ignored in the slightest due to language barriers.

In the past, I've helped the people around me in their times of distress by being a friend who's always there. Whether it's just lending them an ear or giving some advice, I've always tried to do whatever I can. Aside from this I served as the Head-girl of my School for a year, a Vice-Coordinator for another, and a Student Council member when I was a junior. When it came to voicing the students' concerns and convincing the authorities to address them, I took a lead and was able to achieve the desired outcome on most occasions.

2. Hardworking and Adaptable

Using a circumstance as an excuse to my failure is something I never do. As a secretary, I shall face unforeseen situations on multiple occasions and will have to adapt to them and make a rational decision. This is especially true in an online semester where a lot of new problems have surfaced and are continuing to do so. I believe I can face these challenges sensibly and thoughtfully, instead of running away from them.

The best example I can site is right here. Online semester brought with it an enormous gap between our batch and the seniors, and even within our own batch. Consequently, most people don't know each other nicely (knowing someone's name isn't enough). But instead of blaming the situation, I put in some extra effort and built a website with just everything one needs to know about me, formally and informally. Specifically, for the elections, I prepared this SOP even though Secretary candidates don't need to. All of this just goes on to prove that I am indeed hardworking and adaptable.

3. Organized and good at managing things

As a secretary, there will be a lot of managerial work, a lot of documents, and a lot of records to be maintained. I have good managerial and organizational skills. I've held positions of responsibility in the past (as stated above) and completed all my duties satisfactorily. I also have good leadership qualities, which was apparent, again, with the way I was able to

manage all the work and lead the Student Council team for 2 years. So, when it comes to leading a group in a task, I believe I can do it satisfactorily.

4. Responsible and Trustworthy

The badge for this post would symbolize the students' and the authorities' trust in me and I shall never break it. But even if I make a mistake, I shall always take responsibility and try my best to correct it.

I was able to gain and sustain the trust of students as well as the authorities through my work, which led to me winning the school elections consecutively for 3 years.

5. Fair and Just

I'm the last person to give someone a preferential treatment or otherwise from a position of power. I consider a duty above my personal opinions and preferences and I shall, as a secretary, weigh every student's concern equally.

In the past, I have often called out some of my closest friends when they were wrong as someone who was accountable to the entire school. When they were right, I stood firmly by their side and I think that is the reason people trusted me.

MY VISION FOR THIS POST

"You'll be the first person after Gsec that students in need will reach out to" - a sentence in the intro slides which captured all my attention. This post holds a lot of responsibility specially because of the delicacy of what it is dedicated to. With the academic and societal pressure taking a toll on all of us, our mental health is deteriorating and all of us are so pre-occupied that even when someone tries to seek help, they are greeted by a deserted auditorium. As someone who has experienced that on a minor level in the past, I want to help others to the best of my capacity.

One thing I've noticed in my small Kgp-journey is the mutual anger towards the council in some students' minds because they feel the council is ignoring them. I want to change that. I want them to know that I'm one of them. And I wish to do this through proper

dedication and active communication. I don't want anyone to feel that no one is listening to them.

THE MEASURES I WOULD TAKE

Utilizing our strengths and abilities exhaustively and making up for our weaknesses and limitations through well thought-out strategies shall be the philosophy of my work. The primary concerns that I'll have to address in my tenure will obviously be an outcome of the online semester. As stated above, using the limitations in online mode as an excuse to me slacking off is the last thing I'll do.

Our batch has been a victim this past year. Any connections we've made have either been through societies, or our own efforts. There is still a vast majority of students who haven't formed friendships with their batchmates, let aside being able to communicate with seniors. To address this lack of communication, I believe Gymkhana can and should take a lead. There are 6 ways in which I'd want to tackle this-

1. **An online platform (website or app) which shall serve multiple purposes.**

The pandemic has been marked with a lot of sufferings on the part of students emotionally as well as financially. We witnessed many WhatsApp messages and Instagram stories of people asking for help, but only a few of them got it. The reason was limited reach of that message. I believe a centralized platform where the entire kgp community will be able to see such messages, filtered by the area they live in or something else, will prove much more efficient and useful in any such cases even after this pandemic. Additionally, this platform shall also be dedicated to students being able to voice their concerns and complaints, and it shall also be open to any suggestions.

2. Regular events organized by Gymkhana where students can come up and communicate effectively. It can be in the form of writing competitions, paintings, posters, debates, articles, or just anything. For a change,

- a. **students will have to present their work in front of other participants.**

Say, a poster contest. Every participant shall make a poster on a given theme and either record a video of them explaining what they want to convey or do the same in a live event. The aim is to let others understand

the student's way of thinking as an insight to their personality and appreciate the same. Nice results can be expected out of it since all participants are already united with a common field of interest (posters in this case) and are much more likely to bond with each other if given an opportunity to.

b. **Whenever possible, these events would be aimed at raising awareness regarding an issue.**

This is achievable with coordination between the social and welfare societies and is greatly needed in this online semester where students' mental health is deteriorating.

3. **Regular workshops** with the support of various societies of our college where students who share a common interest in a field but were unable to join the respective society due to any reason, can come together and learn from their seniors. Not only shall this bring the students with a common interest together but shall also lead to senior-junior bonding which is needed.
4. **An official discord server** for regular streaming of Sports matches, movies, concert streams or anything. The aim is to make students feel like they're in their hostel rooms with their friends while watching the same. Although the experience wouldn't be that vivid, it's better than watching those matches alone, right? Again, this will lead to bonding because people will share common interests. Within the server there will be multiple channels for different purposes.
5. **Regular gaming sessions** in which anyone can participate based on their availabilities. These games may in some cases be video games but mostly these shall be other innovative fun activities. The scope is wide with any student having the opportunity to share their ideas for each session. This is something which is already happening in google meets of 10-15 people, then why not make it centralized and invite anyone who's interested?
6. **A centralized platform for academic guidance.**
There's a Facebook page which is doing the same thing, but I believe a centralized platform would prove much more efficient where not only seniors but even our alumni can help us.

Lastly, **Campus Reopening.**

Little needs to be said to explain why this is so important. The effects of online semester go beyond academics and its harming our mental health and well-being now. Of course, the campus needs to reopen as soon as possible. But, this is a responsibility for all of us.

As a secretary, I won't have administrative powers, but I'll have some say. I'll have the voice of the students and I promise to use it wisely and effectively. Devising strategies, suggesting ways, and initiating discussions based on student sentiment and demands – These shall be my priority if I become the secretary. However, I wish to focus more on things that are independently achievable and required in ways I've already stated.

ENDING NOTE

To conclude, if you want a secretary who addresses the abundant issues and problems effectively and strategically, never runs away from responsibilities, works hard and smart, is someone you can trust and who is always there to help you as a friend, do vote for me on 26th of July 2021.

-Aaditri Vaibhav

Candidate, Community & Crisis Secretary, Student Welfare.