**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.

I have been a diligent and sincere student since childhood. I studied in one of the most reputed chains of catholic schools in India - *St. Mary’s School, Mirzapur* from where pursued my education till Senior Secondary Examination (Class 12th). Although I did not get many diverse academic opportunities in school, I was the best in my class in Computer Science. In fact, I taught Java programming to my friends in the class.

After securing a good rank in UPSEE examination I got admitted to Institute of Engineering & Technology, Lucknow- where I pursued my B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering. Although Mechanical Engineering wasn’t bad, my interest stayed with Computer Science and Adversarial Machine Learning in particular. In my bachelors, I was the guy who others would come to with their computer related problems. After graduating in June 2019, I decided to pursue my passion of Computer Science and spent 7 months studying the core Computer Science subjects. I decided to appear for the GATE CSE examination in 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 Masters in Computer Science & Engineering at *Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur* because I was fascinated by the research work done at “*Interdisciplinary Centre for Cyber Security and Cyber Defense of Critical Infrastructures – The C3i labs”* at Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, being the best Cyber Security lab in India.

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 had also been an active participant in the *Fridays for future* global movement for climate change awareness.

I believe that further education in the world of computing can allow me to innovate and create 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 challenge of improving its applications in securing computer systems.

// To be transferred to SOP: I am aware that the M.Tech program at IIT Kanpur will involve a lot of hard work and dedication. However, I have always been a student who has prioritized his academics and has worked hard throughout his life. I am sure that I can cope with the workload and live up to the expectations of the program.The Reliance Foundation Scholarships will help me cover up my academic expenses at IIT Kanpur. It has been my dream to opt for an exchange semester in European universities and the scholarship would provide me with the funds needed to survive during my exchange semester abroad. I also intend to purchase a modern computer using the scholarship funds, the lack of which will otherwise be a bottleneck in my courses and research.

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

**SAMBHRANT MAURYA**