

As a child stargazing the night sky and simply wondering what it would be like to get up there kept me intellectually engaged. I read books to understand the Universe and was deeply astonished to learn that our planet Earth is just a little speck in the vast cosmic dust. One word that defines me - "Curious".

My interest in STEM is deeply rooted into my childhood passion of understanding our place in the Universe complemented with strong interest in music, art and working with my hands. While STEM helps the seeker within me to find out "why" and "how" things work in a certain way, art and music allows me to be more imaginative and creative. Our physical world and my observations of the nature continue to inspire me to be a voracious learner in different ways.

During my middle school years, I learnt about ISRO & NASA's unmanned Mars rover mission. A supernova of questions filled up my head, like, how can something so heavy be catapulted away from Earth's gravity, travel millions of miles, safely land on Mars, and not only send and receive signals from, but also intelligently navigate the harsh terrain on a remote planet. This had me consumed mentally and was instrumental in developing a keen sense of appreciation for engineering and technology, autonomous vehicles and robotics. Ever since then my interests have pivoted around technologies that can intelligently improve human life on this planet and beyond. During my middle school years, I represented the school at all grade levels to participate and win accolades at "Ecobot", a region-wide robotics competition.

I have been a solution seeker since early age, once at school "rainbow looms" were a craze, and my little sister insisted for a kit. Its prohibitive cost challenged my ingenuity to come up with an alternative technique to assemble them. I surprised my sister with multiple "rainbow looms" from a contraption that I built at home. Currently, I find space exploration mentally stimulating. I envision moon to be our refueling station on our journey to Mars, and later Mars serving that purpose as mankind travels deeper in space.