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As a sixteen year student just out of the school and walking along the seashore of Paradeep Port, Orissa a few kilometers away from home, I used to question myself of the intricacies of the World. I could occasionally see the huge ships ferrying into the unknown sea after loading or unloading of cargo, mostly coal and iron ore at Paradeep. The questions that always arose were how do the ship inmates communicate with the land during their voyages and what all it takes to locate and identify the coal and iron ore that these ships ferry. This is still the life line of the place.

I always had a questioning attitude and interest in the science that finds its application in real world. This led me to pursue science during my senior secondary level and then pursue Geology as major during Bachelor of Science degree. During those days the country of my native, India was taking its first stride in Remote Sensing. I have always been fascinated by the subject of Remote Sensing and the way the satellites provide a synoptic view of an area. At that time the images were rare and internet was yet to penetrate into the parts of India where I was studying. Thus I spent hours in the college library, reading books on the topic. By the end of Bachelor of Science degree I was more curious and longing for knowledge than ever before. Subsequently, to augment my knowledge in spatial technologies and put it into work, I completed my masters in Geology at Utkal University with Remote Sensing as the special subject and further pursued my master of philosophy under the guidance of Dr. P. Roy analyzing the hydro geomorphologic changes around the Eastern Ghat ranges through the application of spatial technologies. But it was in the final Semester of my masters, when I interacted with many renowned Remote Sensing experts of the state as well as the country that I fell for the subject. The odyssey continues with my PhD program under the guidance of Dr. Deepak Mishra at the University of New Orleans in pursue of assessing the marsh health through the technologies of Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System.

No doubt, marsh degradation along the gulf coast is currently one of the most debatable topics. While the cardinal cause behind this phenomena is yet to be established, their magnificent dynamic ecological equilibrium for centuries is astounding. True, it is impossible to bring back the ever changing nature exactly on a previous step; but utmost care should be given in sustaining the remaining wetland ecosystem. This is precisely what forms the philosophy behind my doctoral research. Characterization of marsh health through the mapping of marsh vegetation biophysical parameters will enable us to better understand marsh temporal behavioral shifts which can greatly help us manage and evaluate the restoration efforts more efficiently. My ambition is to work at the forefront of the technology with the ability to find innovative solutions to the changing needs in the field of coastal environmental studies. I look forward to being an active contributing member of the Gulf Coast ecological/environmental community and devote the rest of my career in teaching and research.