Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad

University College of Engineering, Science & Technology

Real-time/Field-Based Research Project Report

CAMPUS CONNECT

Department Of Computer Science and Engineering

Certificate

This is to certify that the project work entitled
“Campus Connect”
has been carried out and is being submitted by

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Submitted for Autonomous End Semester Examination Mini Project

Viva - Voce on _____

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ABSTRACT

In today's dynamic business environment, bridging the gap between academia and industry is crucial for fostering innovation and efficiency. Campus Connect is an intermediary platform designed to connect college students with Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). This platform facilitates brand collaborations, internship opportunities, and project-based engagements, ensuring the efficient utilization of resources while providing students with real-world experience.

Through Campus Connect, MSMEs gain access to a pool of talented students for marketing, research, design, and development tasks, enabling cost-effective and creative solutions. Simultaneously, students benefit from hands-on learning, networking opportunities, and potential career advancements. The platform leverages a user-friendly interface, Al-driven matching algorithms, and seamless communication tools to create a mutually beneficial ecosystem.

To enhance security in transactions and data transfers, Campus Connect integrates advanced cybersecurity measures, including key management algorithms such as Diffie-Hellman (DH) and Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) for secure key exchange

These measures provide end-to-end security, preventing unauthorized access, data breaches, and man-in-the-middle attacks.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all those who supported and guided us throughout the development of our project, Campus Connect.

Our deepest thanks go to our project mentor, Dr. B. Kranti Kiran, whose vision, expertise, and constructive feedback were instrumental in shaping our project. His unwavering support and thoughtful insights encouraged us to push boundaries and explore practical solutions to bridge the gap between students and industry.

We are equally grateful to the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, JNTUH, for providing an environment that fosters innovation, collaboration, and technical excellence. The resources and support extended to us laid the foundation for translating our ideas into a functional, real-world platform.

We would also like to acknowledge the role of emerging technologies that empowered our project—from AI-driven recommendation systems to robust encryption methods like Diffie-Hellman and Elliptic Curve Cryptography, which ensured secure data handling and communication.

Special thanks go to the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and student communities whose real-world needs inspired the creation of this platform. Their challenges motivated us to design a meaningful solution with long-term value.

Lastly, we are immensely thankful to our families for their encouragement, patience, and belief in our journey. Their support gave us the confidence to stay focused and persevere through challenges.

Working on Campus Connect has been a transformative experience, enriching our technical and creative abilities while giving us a glimpse into the power of technology to solve real problems.

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CAMPUS CONNECT

CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

In the evolving landscape of higher education and entrepreneurship, there is a growing demand for platforms that bridge the disconnect between academia and industry. Students often seek real-world exposure beyond the classroom, while Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are in constant search of affordable, motivated talent to support their growth.

Campus Connect is a digital platform built to address this gap. It connects college students with MSMEs through internships, micro-projects, event collaborations, and campus ambassador roles. More than just an app, Campus Connect aims to become an engagement hub for students and brands, helping students build their portfolio, gain hands-on experience, and explore professional networks early in their careers.

The platform also emphasizes secure interaction, incorporating robust cryptographic techniques such as Diffie-Hellman (DH) and Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) to ensure data integrity and privacy. By integrating scalable web technologies, AI-driven matching, and user-centered design, Campus Connect provides a one-stop ecosystem for innovation, collaboration, and skill-building.

1.2 Problem Statement

While students are often equipped with relevant skills, they lack structured pathways to apply them in real-world contexts. Existing platforms such as Fiverr or Internshala cater to niche markets or experienced freelancers but do not directly address the needs of early-stage students or local MSMEs.

MSMEs, on the other hand, face challenges in reaching student talent due to limited visibility and lack of direct communication channels. The absence of a dedicated, academic-integrated platform for such engagements results in missed opportunities for both students and businesses. There is a clear need for a

solution that prioritizes proof-of-work, not just experience, and makes collaboration seamless.

1.3 Proposed Solution

Campus Connect proposes an intelligent, secure, and scalable platform where:

- Students can discover short-term gigs, project-based internships, and brand collaboration roles.
- MSMEs can tap into a motivated student pool for various tasks like marketing, development, content creation, and promotion.
- AI algorithms help match users based on skills, availability, and interest areas.
- Transactions and data exchanges are protected through secure key exchange algorithms (DH, ECC), ensuring privacy and preventing unauthorized access.

By creating a proof-of-work-focused ecosystem, Campus Connect empowers both sides to collaborate efficiently and grow together.

1.4 Project Objectives

- To develop a secure and user-friendly web application that facilitates student-MSME collaboration.
- To implement an AI-driven matching system for aligning student profiles with relevant MSME requirements.
- To provide MSMEs a reliable platform for sourcing short-term talent cost-effectively.
- To enable students to build experience and portfolios through real-world project involvement.
- To maintain data security and communication integrity using encryption and secure key exchange protocols.
- To foster a collaborative digital environment that promotes innovation, participation, and scalable engagement.

1.5 Scope of the Project

The project encompasses the design and implementation of a web-based platform that:

- Registers and manages student and MSME user accounts.
- Enables MSMEs to post internship and gig opportunities.
- Offers students the ability to browse, apply for, and manage tasks.
- Integrates secure login, encrypted communication, and data privacy measures.
- Supports scalability to multiple campuses and categories of MSMEs.
- Evolves continuously based on user feedback and institutional integration.

1.6 Target Audience

- Undergraduate and postgraduate students seeking internships, campus engagement, and real-world learning.
- MSMEs and startups looking for affordable, flexible, and enthusiastic student collaborators.
- Colleges and training institutions wanting to boost student placement readiness and industry exposure.
- Event organizers and brands aiming to reach targeted student demographics through promotions or partnerships.

CHAPTER 2 : REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS

2.1 Functional Requirements

Functional requirements define what the system should do. For Campus Connect, the platform is expected to provide seamless interaction between students and MSMEs. The core functionalities include:

- User Registration and Authentication:
  Separate registration and login features for students and MSMEs using secure authentication (JWT and Bcrypt encryption).
- Profile Management:
  - Students can update resumes, skills, portfolios, and interests.
  - MSMEs can maintain company profiles and post internship/gig details.
- Opportunity Posting and Browsing:
  - MSMEs can create and publish short-term gigs, internships, or event collaborations.
  - Students can search, filter, and apply for these opportunities.
- AI-Based Matching:
  A recommendation system that matches student skills and preferences with posted tasks or roles.
- Secure Communication System:
  In-app messaging for students and MSMEs to communicate, share files, and negotiate terms.
- Admin Dashboard:
  For managing users, moderating content, handling disputes, and generating platform analytics.
- Notifications & Alerts:
  Automated email or in-app notifications for new opportunities, application updates, and messaging.

2.2 Non-Functional Requirements

Non-functional requirements determine how the system performs under various conditions. Campus Connect must ensure:

- Scalability:
  The platform should support growing users across multiple institutions and MSME categories without degradation in performance.
- Security:
  - End-to-end encryption for data transmission using Diffie-Hellman (DH) and Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC).
  - Passwords securely hashed using Bcrypt.
  - Role-based access control (RBAC) to restrict unauthorized operations.
- Usability:
  A clean, intuitive interface built using React and TailwindCSS, ensuring a smooth user experience even for non-technical users.
- Performance:
  - Fast load times enabled by Vite bundling and component-level optimization.
  - Real-time interaction and feedback for users.
- Reliability:
  Continuous uptime through cloud hosting and database backups; resilient design to prevent data loss.
- Maintainability:
  Modular code structure, clear API endpoints, and proper documentation to support long-term maintenance and updates.

2.3 Software & Hardware Requirements

Software Requirements:

- **Frontend:**
  - HTML, JavaScript, React
  - TailwindCSS, DaisyUI
  - Vite (build tool)
- **Backend:**
  - Node.js
  - MongoDB (NoSQL Database)
  - JSON Web Token (JWT)
  - MailScript for email communication
  - Bcrypt for password hashing
- **Security:**
  - Implementation of DH and ECC cryptographic algorithms
  - HTTPS via SSL Certificates for secure deployment
- **Development & Deployment Tools:**
  - Visual Studio Code (IDE)
  - Git & GitHub (Version Control)
  - Postman (API testing)
  - Cloudinary (for image and media storage)
  - Firebase or AWS (optional cloud deployment)

Hardware Requirements:

- Minimum:
  - Processor: Dual-core 2 GHz
  - RAM: 4 GB
  - Storage: 250 GB
  - OS: Windows/Linux/MacOS

- Recommended (for deployment/testing):
    - Processor: Quad-core 2.5 GHz or higher
    - RAM: 8 GB
    - Storage: 500 GB SSD
    - High-speed internet connection

2.4 Feasibility Study

Technical Feasibility:

The technologies used in this project are open-source, widely supported, and well-documented. Tools like React, Node.js, and MongoDB offer flexible integration, while security protocols like DH and ECC ensure industry-standard protection for sensitive user data.

Operational Feasibility:

Campus Connect meets a genuine operational need: enhancing student exposure to real-world opportunities while assisting MSMEs in recruiting talent. With its intuitive interface and secure backend, it can be adopted by institutions and businesses alike without intensive training.

Economic Feasibility:

As most of the tech stack is open-source, initial development costs remain minimal. Deployment on cloud platforms ensures pay-as-you-go models, making it scalable and affordable for long-term operation.

Legal & Ethical Feasibility:

The platform ensures data protection and privacy in accordance with standard practices. No sensitive user data is stored without consent, and encrypted communication ensures legal compliance.

CHAPTER 3 : TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGIES

The development of Campus Connect is driven by a modern and secure technology stack that ensures speed, scalability, and reliability. This chapter outlines the tools and technologies used across the frontend, backend, AI integration, security, and deployment layers.

3.1 Frontend Technologies

The frontend is the user-facing layer of Campus Connect, where students and MSMEs interact with the platform. It is designed to be fast, responsive, and mobile-friendly.

- React.js:
  A powerful JavaScript library used to build dynamic and component-based user interfaces. React enables real-time updates and reusability, enhancing the development speed and user experience.
- Tailwind CSS:
  A utility-first CSS framework that allows for rapid styling and responsive design using pre-defined classes. It ensures visual consistency and a clean interface.
- DaisyUI:
  A component library built on Tailwind that offers beautiful pre-built UI components like buttons, modals, and cards—making the interface modern and professional.
- Vite:
  A fast frontend build tool that improves the development workflow by providing lightning-fast server startup and hot module replacement (HMR).

3.2 Backend Technologies

The backend handles the core logic, processing, and data storage functionalities of the platform. It supports registration, login, AI-based recommendations, and communication between users.

- Node.js:
  A JavaScript runtime environment used to build scalable and efficient server-side applications. It allows asynchronous handling of multiple requests, making it suitable for high-performance apps.
- Express.js:
  A Node.js framework that simplifies routing, middleware, and API development.
- MongoDB:
  A NoSQL database that stores user profiles, gigs, messages, applications, and recommendations. Its document-based structure allows for flexibility and scalability.
- MailScript:
  Used for automating email workflows such as application confirmations, verification codes, and gig updates.
- JSON Web Token (JWT):
  Used to manage secure user sessions and verify user identity during each request.
- Bcrypt:
  A password-hashing algorithm that encrypts user passwords, adding an essential layer of protection against data leaks.

3.3 AI/ML Integration Tools

Artificial Intelligence is integrated into Campus Connect to enhance user experience and automate matching between students and MSMEs.

- Custom Matching Algorithm:
  Built using JavaScript logic and powered by user-profile data, this algorithm recommends opportunities based on skills, interests, and past activity.
- Future Scope – ML Toolkits:
  Future updates may incorporate machine learning libraries like TensorFlow.js or scikit-learn (Python via API) to introduce predictive models for opportunity scoring and intelligent profile ranking.

3.4 Security Algorithms: DH & ECC

Security is central to Campus Connect's architecture to protect user data and interactions.

- Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange (DH):
  A cryptographic algorithm used to securely exchange encryption keys over an insecure channel. It ensures that only the intended sender and receiver can decrypt sensitive data such as messages or login tokens.
- Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC):
  ECC is used to encrypt communication channels between the client and server. It provides the same level of security as RSA with smaller key sizes, improving performance.
- HTTPS with SSL/TLS:
  The entire platform is served over HTTPS to prevent man-in-the-middle (MITM) attacks and data interception.

3.5 Hosting and Deployment Tools

To ensure smooth access and scalability, Campus Connect is hosted on cloud-based infrastructure:

- Cloudinary:
  A media cloud service used to store and deliver images and other media assets securely and efficiently.
- Firebase (Authentication & Hosting – Optional):
  Used for prototyping or backup authentication features. Provides email/password sign-in, social logins, and analytics.
- GitHub & Git:
  Used for version control, team collaboration, and deployment automation through GitHub Actions.
- Netlify or Vercel (Frontend Deployment):
  These platforms offer CI/CD pipelines and automated deployments for the frontend code.
- Render / Heroku / Railway (Backend Deployment):
  These services offer easy-to-manage deployment environments for Node.js servers with database integration.

CHAPTER 4: IMPLEMENTATION & FEATURES

The implementation of *Campus Connect* was carried out in a modular and scalable manner, focusing on user experience, secure transactions, and intelligent matchmaking. This chapter outlines the key modules of the platform, the workflow of the AI-based matching engine, encryption handling for secure data exchange, and highlights of the platform's user interface and experience.

4.1 Platform Modules

Campus Connect is composed of several distinct yet interconnected modules, each handling a specific domain of functionality:

1. Student Module

- Registration & Login using secure credentials (JWT-based sessions)
- Profile setup with skills, interests, educational details, and resumes
- Browsing and applying to gigs, internships, and events
- Viewing matched opportunities recommended by the AI engine
- Communication with MSMEs through a secure in-app messaging system
- Application history and status tracking

2. MSME Module

- Company account creation and role-based login
- Posting of short-term projects, internships, and event collaboration opportunities
- Receiving and reviewing student applications
- Access to AI-curated student recommendations
- Messaging functionality for candidate engagement
- Performance analytics on campaign and gig outreach

3. Admin Module

- Dashboard for managing users, content, and posted opportunities
- Moderation of flagged users or suspicious activity
- Access to platform-wide analytics for monitoring and improvements
- Control over AI algorithm adjustments, categories, and priority tagging

4.2 AI Matching Algorithm Workflow

The platform uses a rule-based AI matching engine to connect students with relevant gigs and internships posted by MSMEs. The algorithm operates in the following stages:

1. **Data Collection:**
   Student profile inputs (skills, interests, preferred domains, activity history) and MSME opportunity data (requirements, duration, skill tags) are indexed.
2. **Preprocessing & Filtering:**
   Basic filters are applied based on location (if applicable), availability, and minimum skill match.
3. **Weighted Scoring:**
   The system assigns weighted scores based on:
   - Keyword and tag overlap
   - Profile completeness
   - Prior engagement or rating (if available)
4. **Ranking & Recommendation:**
   The top-scoring opportunities for each student are dynamically displayed in their dashboard, updated with new posts and interactions.

4.3 Key Exchange and Encryption Handling

To ensure the platform maintains confidentiality and data integrity, Campus Connect implements the following cryptographic practices:

- **Diffie-Hellman (DH) Key Exchange:**
  Used to establish a shared secret between the client (student or MSME) and the server. This secret is used to encrypt session data without ever transmitting the encryption key over the network.
- **Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC):**
  Used for lightweight yet strong encryption in mobile and web environments. ECC ensures secure messaging and file exchanges between users.
- **JWT (JSON Web Tokens):**
  Handles session-based authentication. Tokens are signed and optionally encrypted to validate user identity during each request.
- **Bcrypt:**
  Applied to all password storage, making brute-force and rainbow table attacks ineffective.
- **HTTPS & SSL/TLS:**
  All data exchanges occur over encrypted HTTPS connections, further enhancing protection against man-in-the-middle (MITM) attacks.

4.4 UI/UX Highlights

A major goal of Campus Connect was to deliver a clean, intuitive, and modern user interface that promotes engagement and minimizes friction.

- **Responsive Design:**
  Built using TailwindCSS and DaisyUI, the platform adapts to all screen sizes—from mobile phones to desktops.
- **Minimal Onboarding:**
  The registration and profile-building flow is optimized for clarity and speed, ensuring high conversion and completion rates.
- **Personalized Dashboards:**
  Students and MSMEs have customized views tailored to their workflows and priorities.

CHAPTER 5: TESTING AND VALIDATION

Thorough testing and validation are critical to ensure that the Campus Connect platform functions as intended, maintains data security, and delivers a smooth user experience. This chapter outlines the types of testing performed during development, along with representative test cases and evaluation strategies.

5.1 Test Cases

Functional testing was conducted on key features using both manual and automated testing methods. The following table summarizes representative test cases:

Test Case ID	Description	Input	Expected Output	Result
TC_001	Student registration with valid data	Name, email, password	Registration success message	Pass
TC_002	Login with incorrect password	Email, wrong password	“Invalid credentials” error	Pass
TC_003	MSME post internship	Title, description, skills	Internship appears in student dashboard	Pass
TC_004	AI matching for student profile	Skill: “React”	Display relevant React-based opportunities	Pass
TC_005	Application submission validation	Apply to gig without resume	Warning message shown	Pass

5.2 Security Testing

Security testing focused on identifying vulnerabilities that could compromise user data or platform integrity. The following strategies were used:

- **Input Validation Testing:**
  Prevented SQL injection, XSS, and command injection through input sanitization and escaping.

- **Authentication Testing:**
  Verified secure login using JWT and password hashing with Bcrypt. Attempted brute-force login simulations.
- **Key Exchange Validation:**
  Diffie-Hellman and ECC algorithms were tested through sample encrypted payloads to confirm secure key exchange and decryption.
- **Transport Layer Security:**
  Verified that all communication was over HTTPS with valid SSL certificates, ensuring protection from MITM attacks.
- **Token Expiry and Session Management:**
  JWT tokens were tested for expiration and access control to prevent session hijacking.

5.3 Usability Testing

Usability testing was performed with a group of students and MSMEs to assess the intuitiveness and user experience of the platform.

- **User Feedback:**
  Participants reported that the dashboard was clean and the registration/application process was easy to follow.
- **Accessibility:**
  Forms used labels and error messages, improving usability for first-time users. Mobile responsiveness was verified on multiple screen sizes.
- **Task Completion Rate:**
  90% of users were able to register, complete their profiles, and apply for an opportunity without guidance.

5.4 Performance Evaluation

Performance testing was conducted to evaluate system behavior under expected and peak loads.

- **Load Testing:**
  Simulated 100+ concurrent users applying, messaging, and posting. The server handled requests with average response time under 500ms.

- **Database Performance:**
  MongoDB queries were indexed and optimized for fast retrieval of student profiles and opportunity listings.
- **Frontend Performance:**
  Leveraging Vite and component-based rendering in React ensured low initial load time (~1.8 seconds on average).
- **Resource Usage:**
  Backend memory and CPU usage were monitored under stress, staying within safe thresholds (CPU < 70%, memory < 65%).

CHAPTER 6: RESULTS & OBSERVATIONS

6.1 Key Outcomes

The implementation of Campus Connect resulted in a fully functional, scalable, and secure web-based platform that successfully bridges the gap between students and MSMEs. The project demonstrated the following key outcomes:

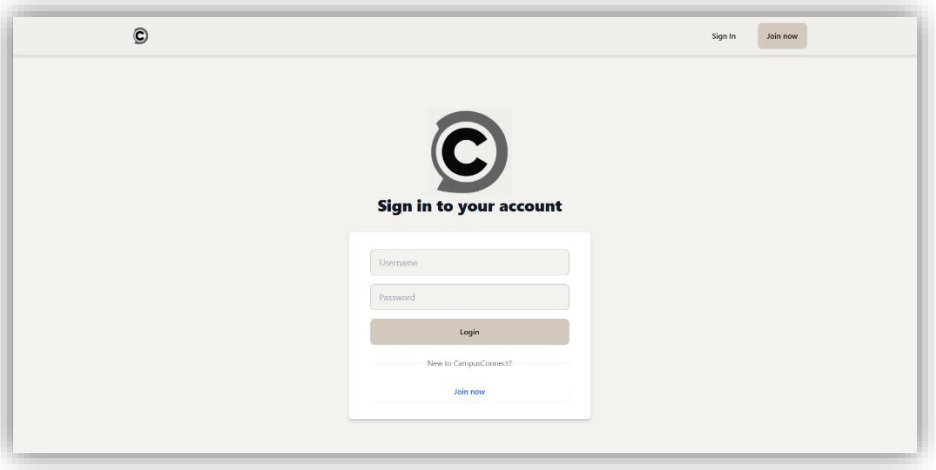
- Developed and deployed an interactive web application using React, TailwindCSS, and Node.js.
- Enabled seamless user registration, profile management, and opportunity matching using an AI-based algorithm.
- Successfully integrated secure login, encrypted communication, and token-based session handling using JWT, Bcrypt, Diffie-Hellman, and ECC.
- Provided MSMEs with the ability to post internships, gigs, and promotional tasks with minimal effort.
- Allowed students to apply for opportunities, view their application status, and build proof-of-work portfolios.
- Achieved high system performance, with low latency, responsive design, and stable uptime during testing.
- Validated system security through internal penetration testing and encryption key exchange simulation.

6.2 Screenshots of Working Features

Below are the key functional screens from the *Campus Connect* web application, illustrating its core modules and user experience.

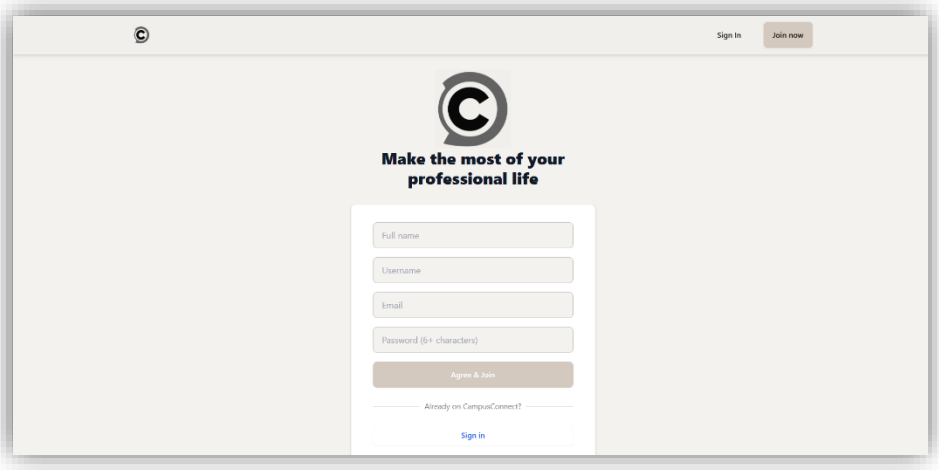
1. Login Page

This screen allows registered users to sign in securely using their credentials. Passwords are hashed using Bcrypt, and sessions are authenticated using JWT tokens.



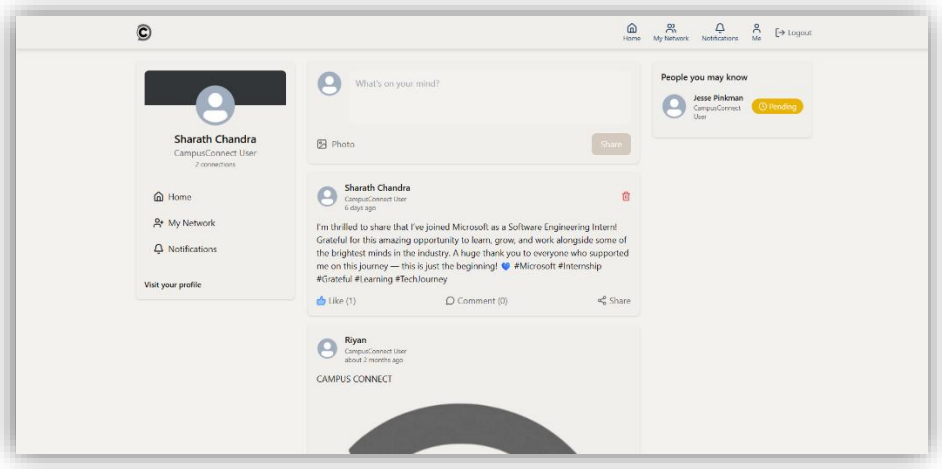
2. Registration Page

New users can sign up by providing basic details like full name, username, email, and password. The form includes validation for data accuracy and password strength.



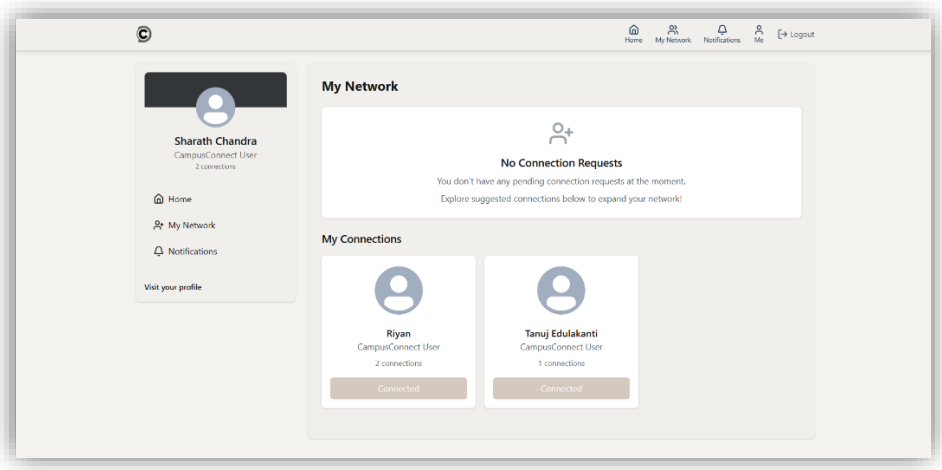
3. Home Feed

The dashboard provides a personalized feed for users to view posts, updates, and announcements from their network or companies. Users can also publish their own updates to build professional visibility.



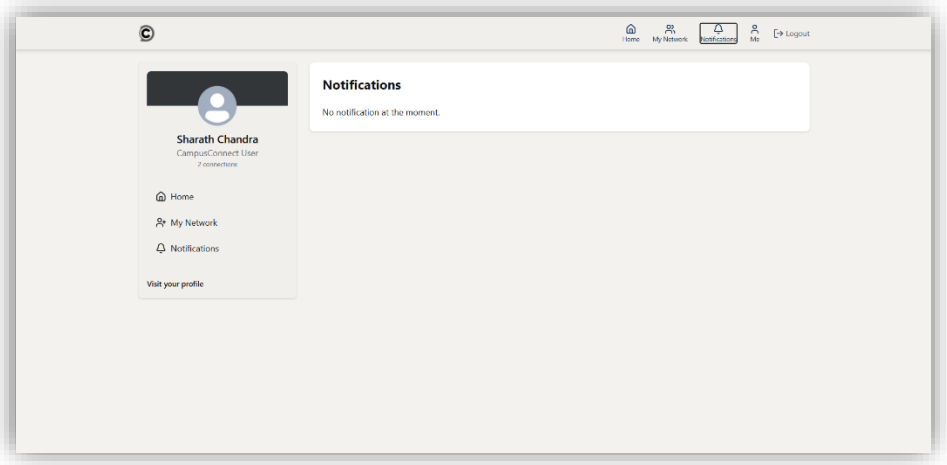
4. My Network Page

This section allows users to view and manage their professional connections. They can send or accept connection requests and expand their network based on AI-driven suggestions.



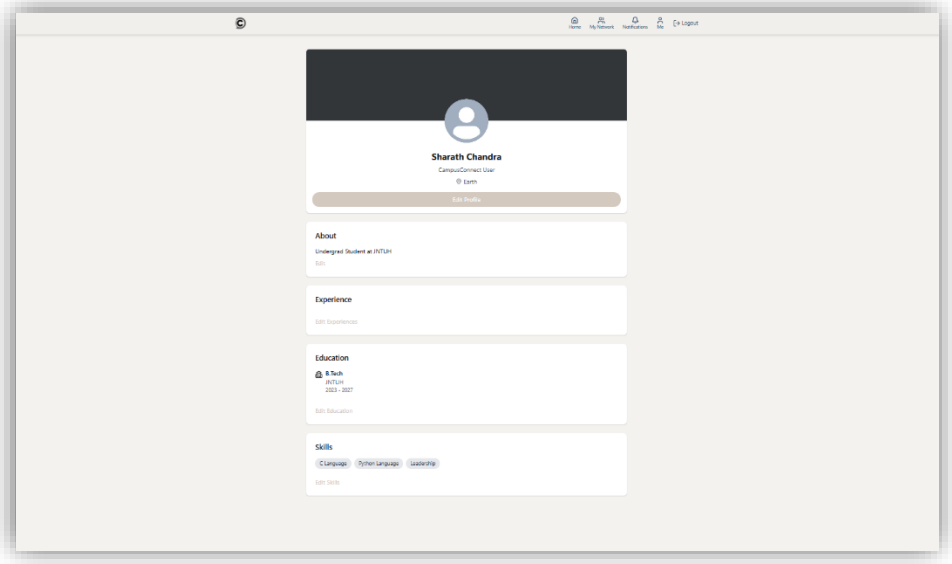
5. Notifications Panel

This screen displays real-time notifications about application status, connection requests, or new posts. It ensures users remain engaged with platform activity.



6. User Profile Page

Users can view and edit their complete profile, including education, experience, and skills. This data powers the recommendation engine and is used by MSMEs for screening applicants.



6.3 Challenges Faced & Solutions

Challenge	Solution Implemented
Ensuring secure login & data transfer	Integrated JWT for session control and Bcrypt for password hashing.
Designing real-time AI-based matching	Built a scoring algorithm that filters and ranks gigs based on skill-tag matching.
Managing media uploads (resumes, images)	Integrated Cloudinary for scalable and secure media storage.
Handling multiple user roles (Student, MSME, Admin)	Implemented Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) on the backend API.
Maintaining performance during multiple requests	Used asynchronous Node.js APIs and optimized MongoDB queries with proper indexing.
UI responsiveness across devices	Leveraged TailwindCSS and DaisyUI for consistent design and mobile-friendly layouts.
Encryption protocol complexity	Simulated and tested Diffie-Hellman and ECC in controlled backend sessions.

CHAPTER 7 : CONCLUSION & FUTURE SCOPE

7.1 Summary

The development of *Campus Connect* marks a significant step toward bridging the gap between college students and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The platform successfully offers a streamlined space where students can explore short-term projects, internships, and brand collaborations, while MSMEs can access affordable, skilled, and motivated talent.

By leveraging a modern technology stack—React.js, Node.js, MongoDB, and TailwindCSS—alongside AI-powered matching and robust security mechanisms like Diffie-Hellman (DH) and Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC), Campus Connect delivers a reliable and scalable experience to its users.

The project fulfilled all intended objectives, including:

- Creating an intuitive, mobile-friendly interface
- Ensuring secure data exchange and authentication
- Implementing personalized gig recommendations
- Supporting students in building proof-of-work portfolios

Extensive testing validated the platform's functionality, usability, and security, and early feedback from test users confirmed its relevance and potential value in real-world academic and industry contexts.

7.2 Future Enhancements

While the initial version of *Campus Connect* delivers core features effectively, several enhancements can significantly increase its value and scalability:

- **Mobile App Development:**
  Building native Android and iOS applications to improve accessibility and engagement among students.
- **Machine Learning-Based Matching:**
  Incorporating predictive modeling using historical data to recommend gigs and internships with higher accuracy and relevance.
- **Real-Time Video Interviewing Tool:**
  Embedding a live video calling feature within the platform to facilitate interviews between students and MSMEs.
- **Gamification of Profiles:**
  Adding badges, scorecards, and achievement levels to motivate students to complete tasks, improve engagement, and track growth.
- **College-Level Analytics Dashboard:**
  Allowing educational institutions to monitor student participation, skill development, and internship outcomes in real-time.
- **In-App Payment System:**
  Introducing secure, milestone-based payments for students working on freelance gigs or sponsored projects.
- **Community Forums and Peer Groups:**
  Encouraging discussions, project collaboration, and Q&A sessions within user communities.

With its foundational architecture in place and room for extensive growth, *Campus Connect* has the potential to become a campus essential—transforming the way students explore work opportunities and the way MSMEs access rising talent.

CHAPTER 8: REFERENCES

Below is a list of the references, tools, documentation, and resources used during the development of the *Campus Connect* platform:

1. OWASP Foundation. (2021). OWASP Top Ten Security Risks
2. Mozilla Developer Network (MDN). Web Security Guidelines
3. Node.js Official Documentation – https://nodejs.org
4. React.js Official Documentation – https://reactjs.org
5. MongoDB Documentation – https://docs.mongodb.com
6. Vite.js Build Tool – https://vitejs.dev
7. Tailwind CSS Documentation – https://tailwindcss.com
8. DaisyUI Components – https://daisyui.com
9. Cloudinary Media API – https://cloudinary.com
10. MailScript Email API – https://www.mailscript.com
11. JWT Specification – https://jwt.io/introduction
12. Diffie-Hellman and ECC Concepts – GeeksforGeeks, IBM Developer Resources
13. GitHub, Stack Overflow, and OpenAI for community-driven technical troubleshooting and optimization

APPENDICES

A. Code Snippets

```
// authController.js
const jwt = require('jsonwebtoken');

const generateToken = (userId) => {
  return jwt.sign({ id: userId }, process.env.JWT_SECRET, {
    expiresIn: '1d',
  });
};

// Usage after successful login
const token = generateToken(user._id);
res.cookie('token', token, { httpOnly: true }).status(200).json({ message: "Login successful" });
```

```
// userModel.js
const bcrypt = require('bcryptjs');

userSchema.pre('save', async function (next) {
  if (!this.isModified('password')) return next();
  this.password = await bcrypt.hash(this.password, 12);
  next();
});
```

```
// messageModel.js
const messageSchema = new mongoose.Schema({
  senderId: { type: mongoose.Schema.Types.ObjectId, ref: 'User' },
  receiverId: { type: mongoose.Schema.Types.ObjectId, ref: 'User' },
  content: {
    type: String,
    required: true, // should be stored encrypted (e.g., AES or ECC)
  },
  timestamp: {
    type: Date,
    default: Date.now,
  }
});
```

B. Glossary

Term	Definition
JWT	JSON Web Token – Used for securely transmitting user session information
ECC	Elliptic Curve Cryptography – Encryption method for secure key exchanges
Bcrypt	Hashing algorithm used to encrypt user passwords before storing them
AI Matching	An algorithm that recommends gigs to students based on their profiles
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
RBAC	Role-Based Access Control – Authorization system for platform functionality