

Full Stack Development with MERN

Project Documentation

1.INTRODUCTION

- **Project Title:** FREELANCING APPLICATION MERN
- **Team Members** (TEAM ID: NM2024TMID00550)
 - **Rohith CS – Project Manager (Team Lead)**
 - **Praveen P – Frontend Developer**
 - **Sathya S – Backend Developer**
 - **Santhosh C – Database Manager**

2.PROJECT OVERVIEW

- **Purpose:** RPS Works is a freelancing platform that connects clients who need services with freelancers who offer those services. The purpose of RPS Works is to bridge the gap between clients needing specific services and freelancers offering their skills. By providing a streamlined process for project posting, bidding, and communication, RPS Works facilitates efficient interactions between clients and freelancers, making it easier to initiate, manage, and complete projects.
- **Features:**
 - **User Registration & Authentication:** Secure account creation and login functionality with different roles for clients, freelancers, and admin.
 - **Freelancer Dashboard:** A personalized space where freelancers can update their skills, view available projects, submit bids, and track ongoing projects.
 - **Client Dashboard:** Allows clients to create and post new projects, review freelancer bids, and manage the status of their projects.
 - **Real-time Chat:** Allows seamless communication between freelancers and clients on project requirements and progress.
 - **Project Posting and Bidding:** Clients post job listings with project details, required skills, and budget. Freelancers can place bids by submitting proposals and estimated days.
 - **Admin Panel:** Provides the admin with a centralized view and control over all users, projects, and applications, allowing monitoring and management of the entire system.

3.ARCHITECTURE

- **Client:**

- **React.js:** The frontend was built with React, chosen for its component-based architecture, allowing for a scalable and maintainable UI.
- **State Management:** Uses React's context or a global state management solution like Redux to manage user session data and project state.
- **Routing:** The application uses React Router for navigation between different views, such as the client dashboard, freelancer dashboard, and bid pages.
- Main components and pages include:
 - **Components:** Login, Register, Navbar, etc are essential components for user authentication and navigation.
 - **Dashboard Components:** Separate dashboards (**Client.js** and **Freelancer.js**) that provide tailored views and functionality based on user roles.
 - **Context:** Centralized context management in **GeneralContext.js** for handling global state.
 - **Project Components:** Dedicated components for project interactions, like **NewProject.js** for creating projects, and **ProjectApplications.js** for viewing and managing applications.

- **Server:**

- Implemented with **Node.js** and **Express.js**, located in the server folder. API endpoints handle user registration, authentication, project management, and bid processing.
- Key files include:
 - **index.js:** The main entry point for the server.
 - **Schema.js:** Contains database schema definitions for users, projects, and bids.
 - **SocketHandler.js:** Manages real-time socket connections for chat functionality.

- **Database:**

- **MongoDB Database Name:** freelancing
- Collections:
 - **applications:** Stores application details for freelancers and clients.
 - **chats:** Manages communication between freelancers and clients.
 - **freelancers:** Contains information about freelancer profiles and skills.
 - **projects:** Stores project data, including client details, budget, and skills required.
 - **Users:** Manages user profiles, login credentials, and roles (client, freelancer, admin).

4.SETUP INSTRUCTIONS

- **Prerequisites:**

- **Node.js:** Version 14 or higher, required to run the backend and install packages.
- **MongoDB:** A local instance or cloud-based MongoDB (such as MongoDB Atlas) for storing project data.
- **npm:** Node package manager to handle dependencies for both frontend and backend.

- **Installation:**

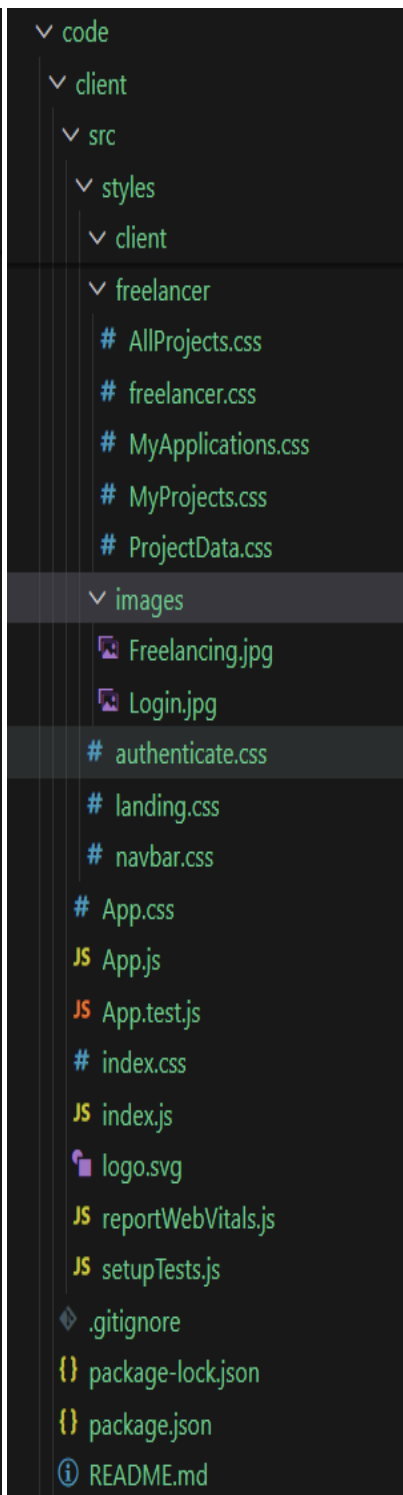
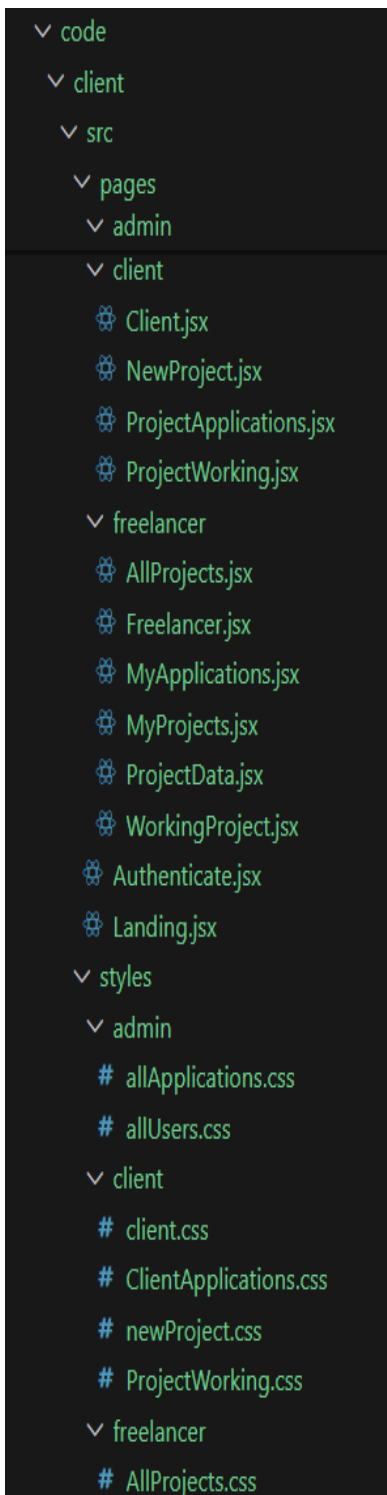
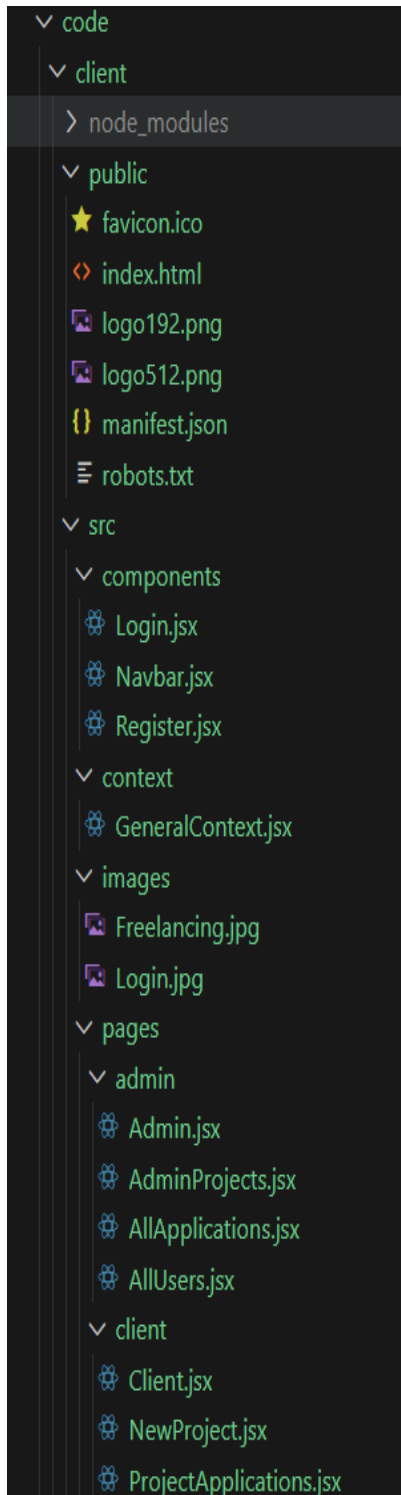
1. Clone the repository:
 - Clone the project repository to your local machine:
 - `git clone <repository-url>`
2. Navigate to the project directory.
3. Install project dependencies:
 - The project contains two main directories: **client** for the frontend and **server** for the backend. You will need to install dependencies for each separately.
 - First, install dependencies for the **frontend**:
 - `cd client`
 - `npm install`
 - Then, navigate to the **server** directory and install backend dependencies:
 - `cd server`
 - `npm install`
4. Set up environment variables for database configuration.
5. Run the application:
 - Start the backend server:
 - `cd server`
 - `node index.js`
 - In a new terminal, start the frontend:
 - `cd client`
 - `npm start`
 - The server will be accessible on `http://localhost:6001` and the client on `http://localhost:3000`.

5.FOLDER STRUCTURE

- **Client:**

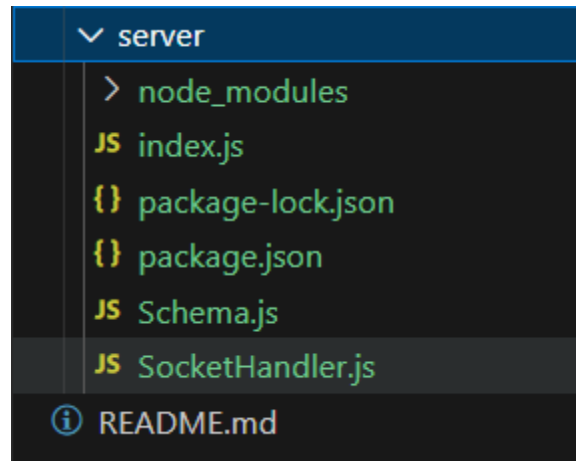
- **node_modules:** Contains all the npm packages required for the frontend project.

- **src/components:** Contains reusable UI components like Login, Navbar, and Register.
- **src/context:** Includes GeneralContext.js for shared state management.
- **src/pages:** Main application pages such as AdminProjects, Freelancer, Client, and Landing.
- **styles:** Contains CSS and styling files that ensure consistent design.



- **Server:**

- **index.js:** Server entry point that initializes Express and configures middleware.
- **Schema.js:** Defines all schemas and models, using MongoDB to handle data structure for users, projects, and bids.
- **SocketHandler.js:** Manages real-time messaging, using sockets for live client-freelancer communication.



6.RUNNING THE APPLICATION

- **Client:**

- Run `npm start` within the client directory to launch the React app.
- The application will launch on a local development server, typically at `http://localhost:3000`.

- **Server:**

- Run `node index.js` within the server directory to start the Express server.
- The backend runs on a different port `http://localhost:6001`.

7.API DOCUMENTATION

- **Authentication Endpoints:**

- **POST /register:** Registers a new user with role-specific functionality (client or freelancer).
- **POST /login:** Authenticates a user and returns a JSON Web Token (JWT) for session management.

- **Project Management Endpoints:**

- POST /projects: Allows clients to create and post new projects.
- GET /projects: Lists all available projects for freelancers to browse and select.
- POST /projects/:id/bid: Freelancers submit a bid, including their proposal and estimated timeline.

- **Chat Endpoints:**

- POST /chat: Starts a chat session between freelancer and client, using socket events to enable real-time communication.

- **Admin Endpoints:**

- GET /admin/projects: Admins view all project postings, with options to manage or remove them if needed.
- GET /admin/users: Admins view all users and manage access, allowing for moderation of platform activities.

8.AUTHENTICATION

- **JWT-Based Authentication:**

- RPS Works uses JWTs for secure user authentication. Tokens are generated upon login and are stored in the client's local storage, enabling secure access to API endpoints. Each request to protected endpoints includes the token, which is verified on the server.
- Tokens are stored client-side and included with API requests for protected endpoints. The backend validates tokens to ensure secure access.

9.USER INTERFACE

- **Key Screens:**

- **Landing Page:** Provides option to sign in. Users can select their role during registration.
- **Freelancer Dashboard:** Displays available projects, allows profile updates, and tracks project bids.
- **Client Dashboard:** Provides tools for clients to create new projects, review freelancer bids, and manage project statuses.
- **Chat Interface:** Real-time messaging for clients and freelancers to discuss project requirements within each project.

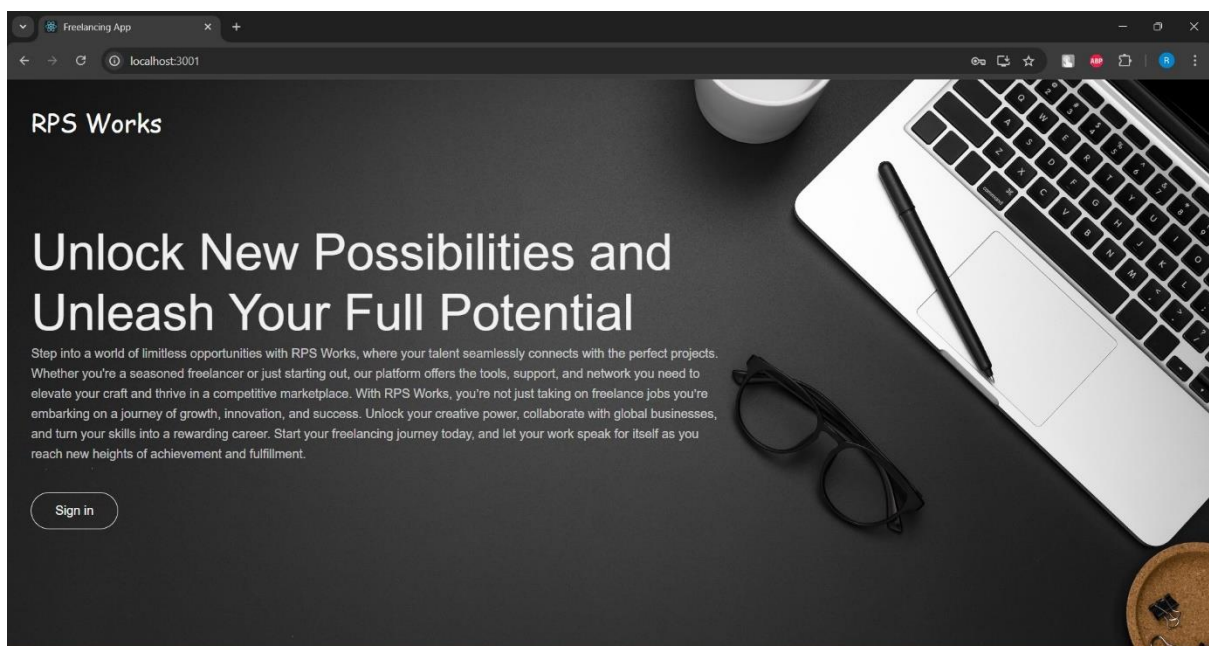
- **Admin Panel:** Offers an overview of platform activities, such as monitoring users, projects, and bids for moderation purposes.

10.TESTING

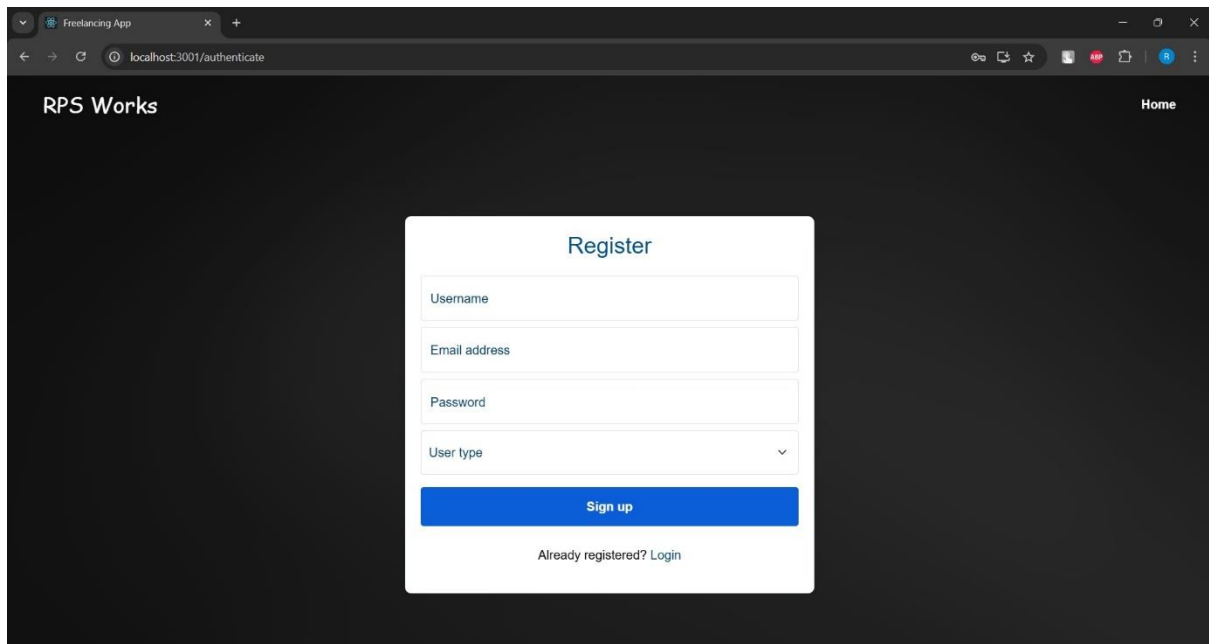
- **Testing Strategy:**
 - **Unit Testing:**
 - Test individual components, such as login and registration forms, to ensure correct functionality.
 - **Verified major workflows:**
 - Verify the functionality of complete workflows, such as project posting and bid approval, to verify interaction between frontend and backend.
- **Database Validation:**
 - Tools used:
 - **Postman:** API testing for endpoints to ensure request-response integrity and correctness.

11.SCREENSHOTS OR DEMO

- **Home page**

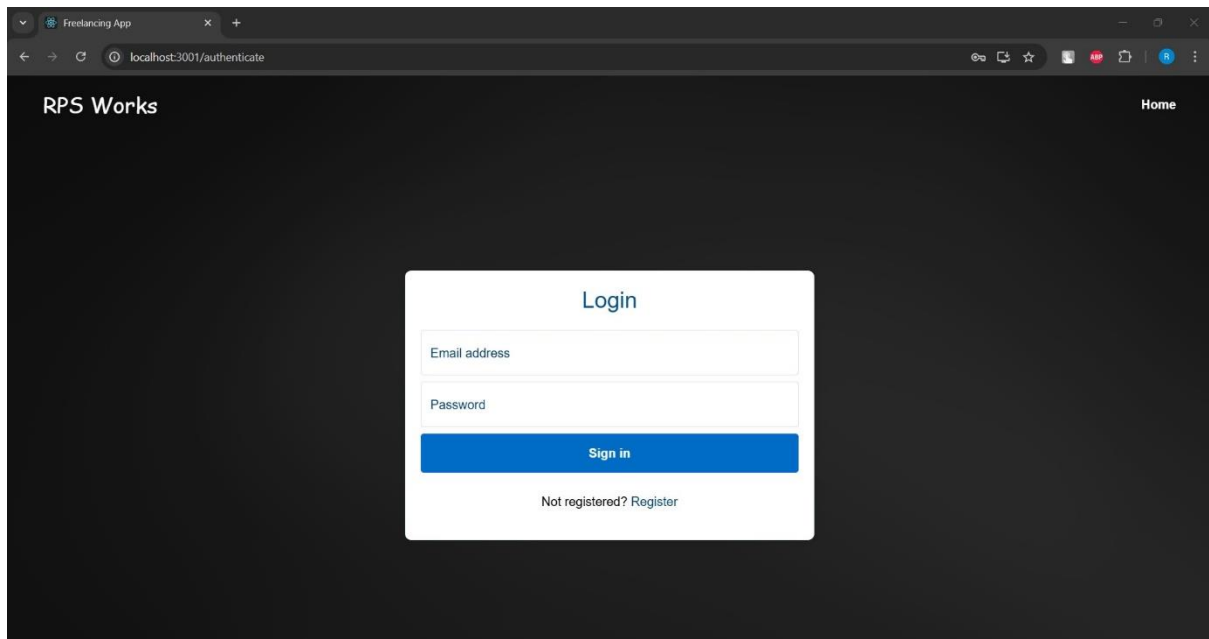


- **Register page**



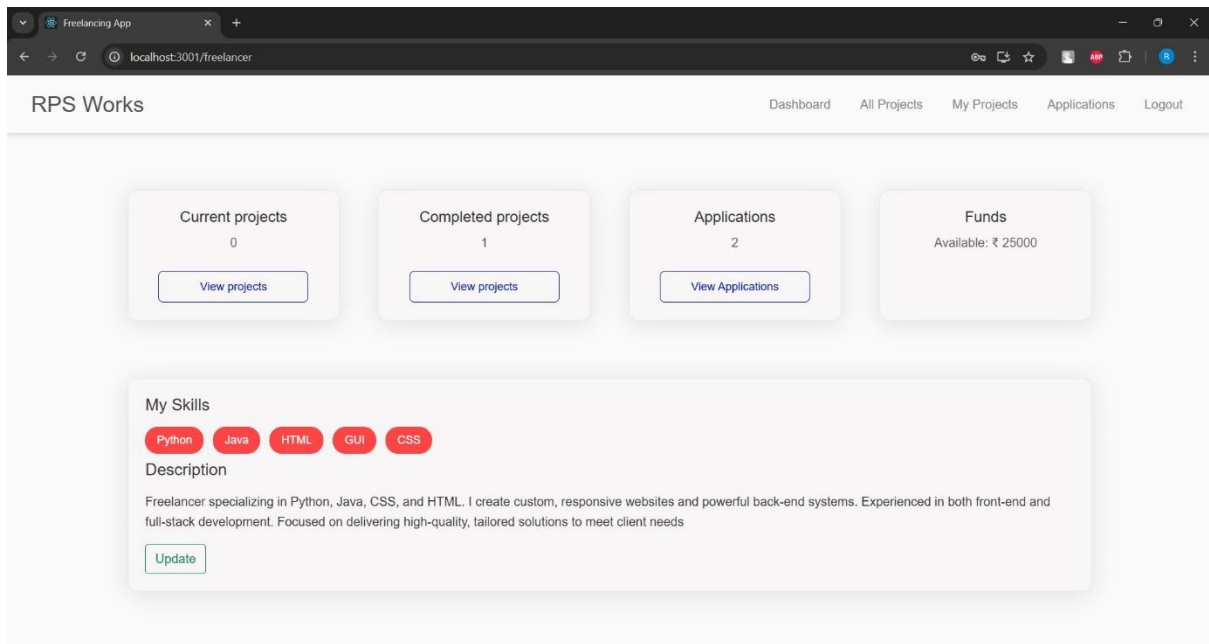
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "Freelancing App" and the address bar displaying "localhost:3001/authenticate". The page has a dark background with the text "RPS Works" in the top left and "Home" in the top right. In the center, there is a white "Register" form. The form contains four input fields: "Username", "Email address", "Password", and "User type" (a dropdown menu). Below these fields is a blue "Sign up" button. At the bottom of the form, there is a link that says "Already registered? Login".

- **Login page**

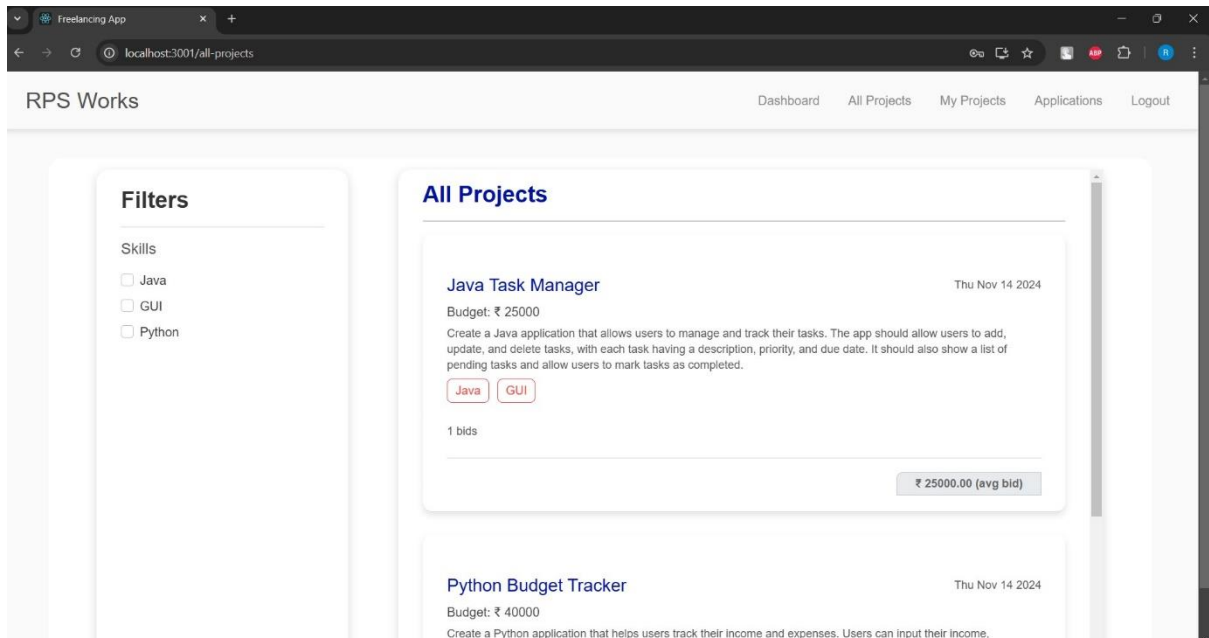


The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "Freelancing App" and the address bar displaying "localhost:3001/authenticate". The page has a dark background with the text "RPS Works" in the top left and "Home" in the top right. In the center, there is a white "Login" form. The form contains two input fields: "Email address" and "Password". Below these fields is a blue "Sign in" button. At the bottom of the form, there is a link that says "Not registered? Register".

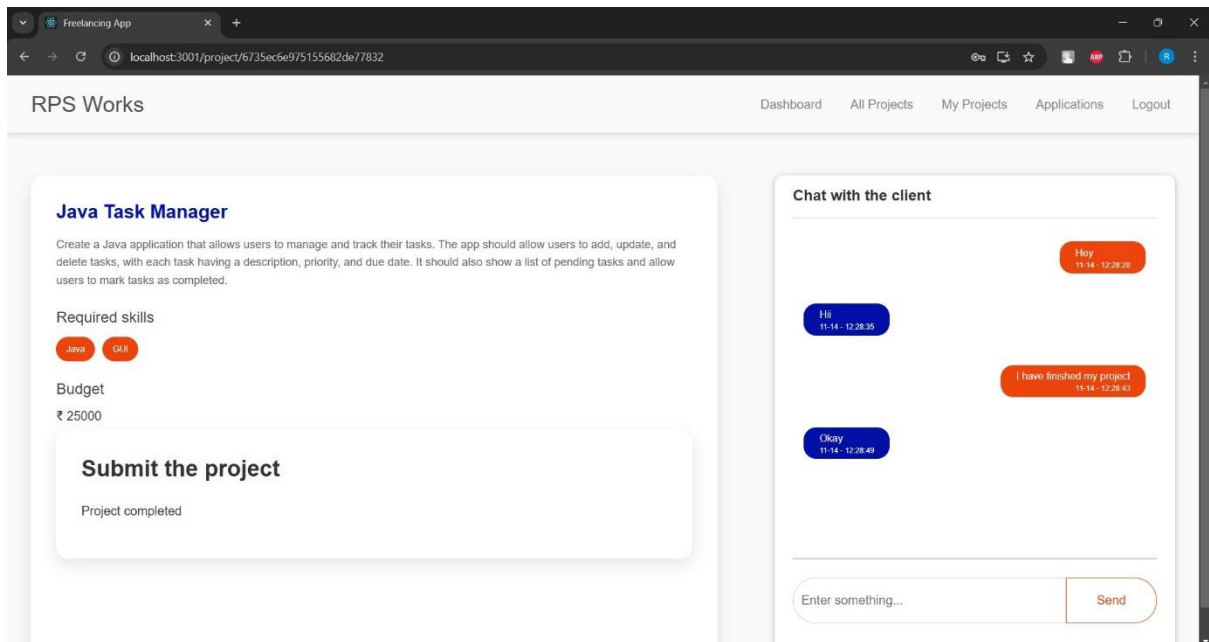
- Freelancer Dashboard



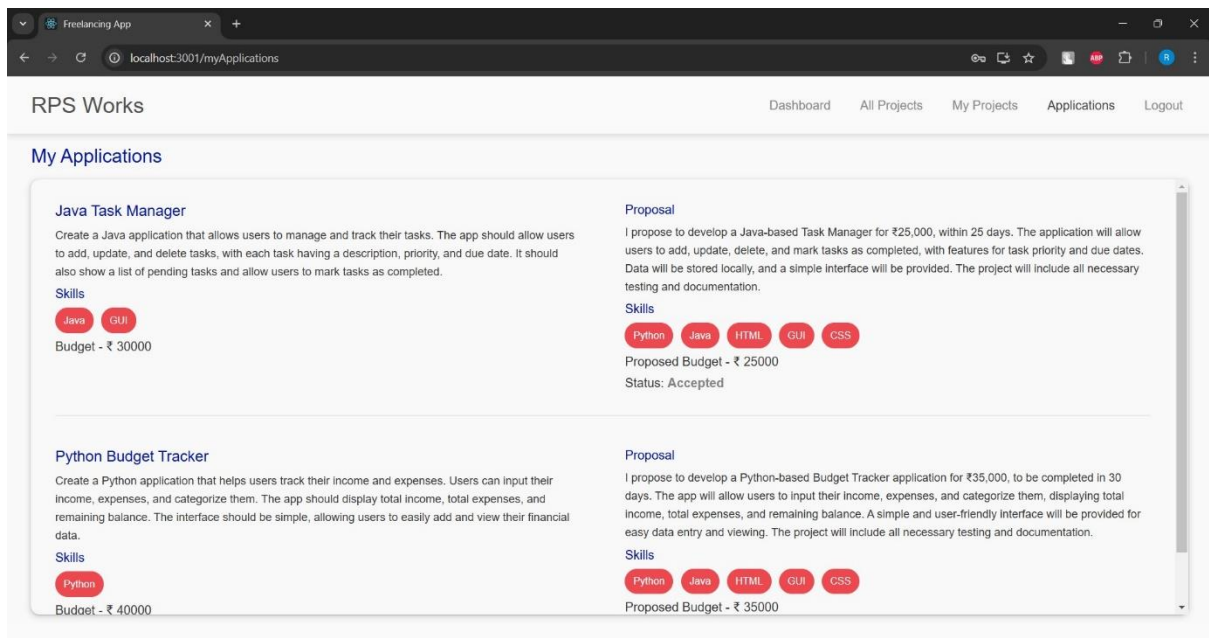
- Freelancer's All Projects page



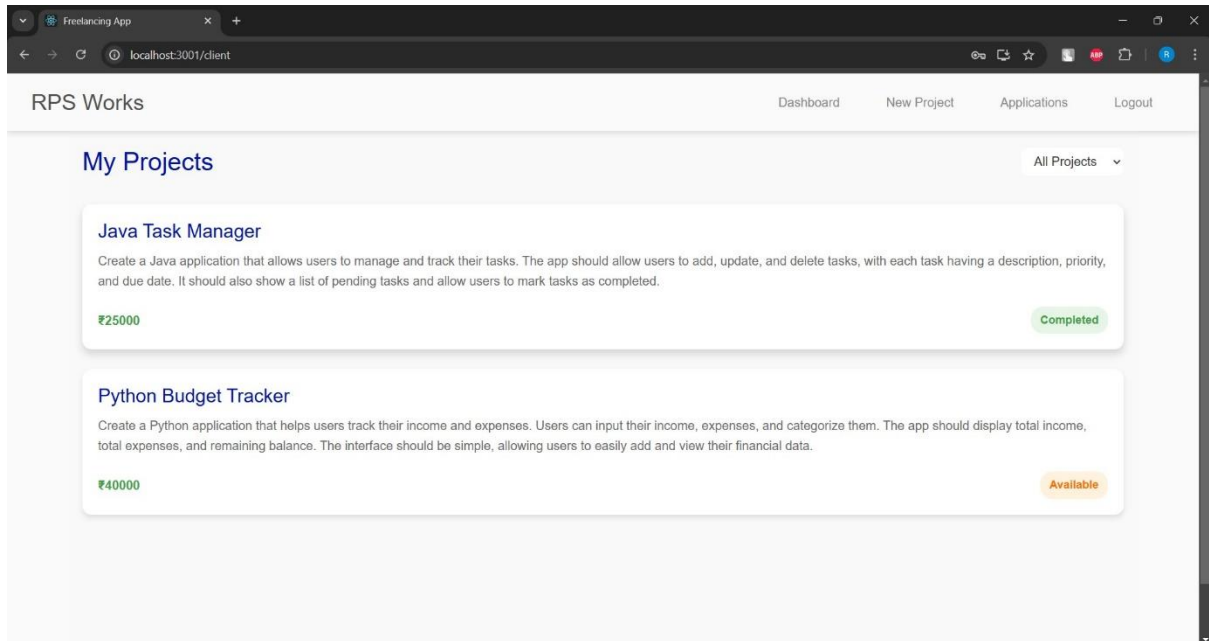
- **Projects page**



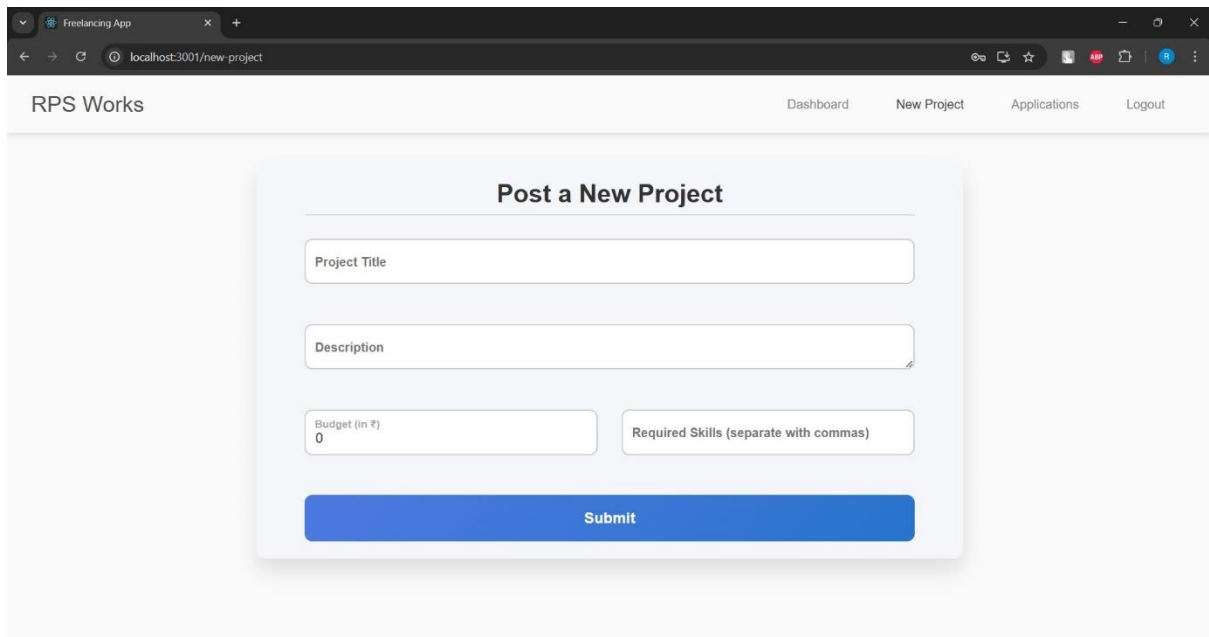
- **Freelancer's Applications page**



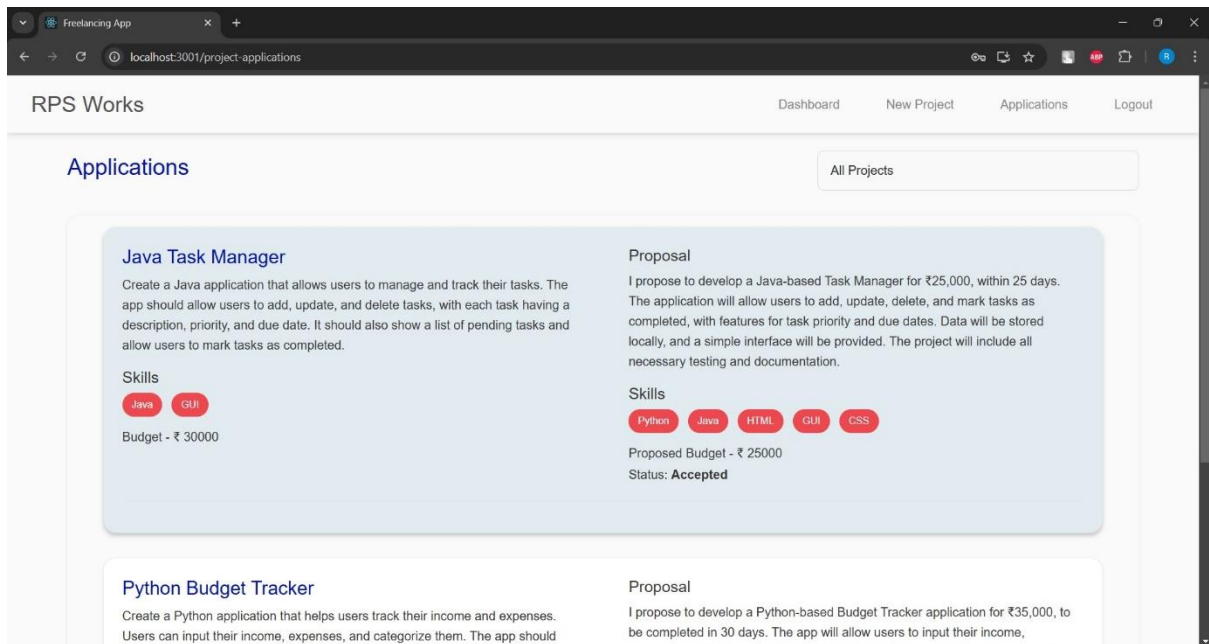
- **Client Dashboard**



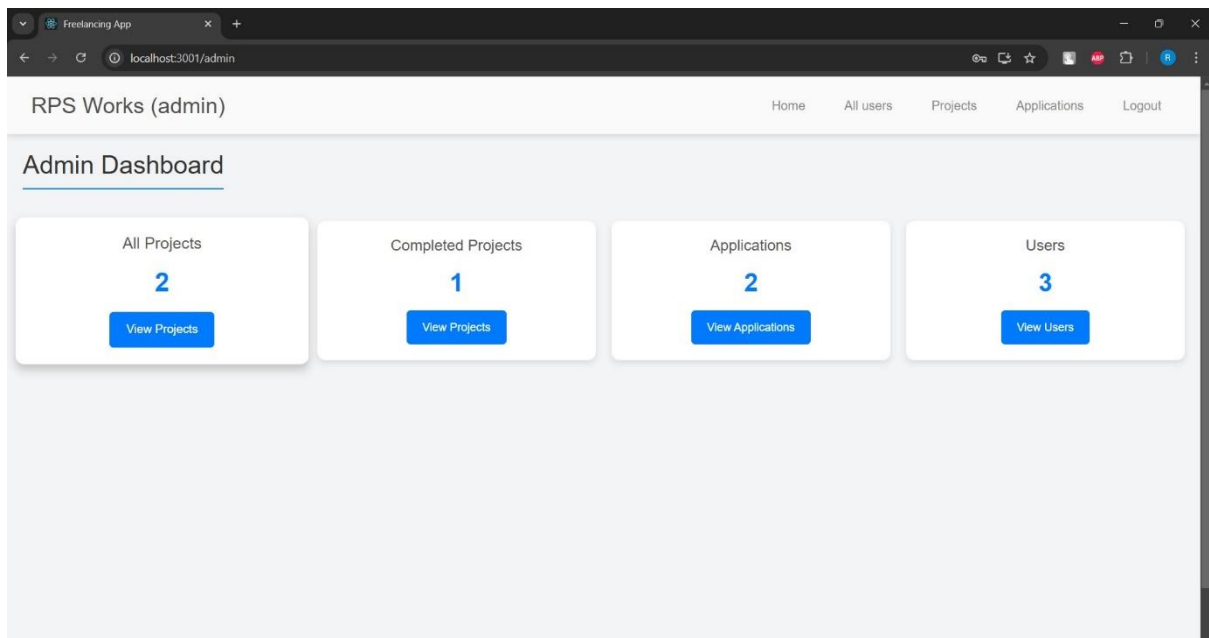
- **New project page**



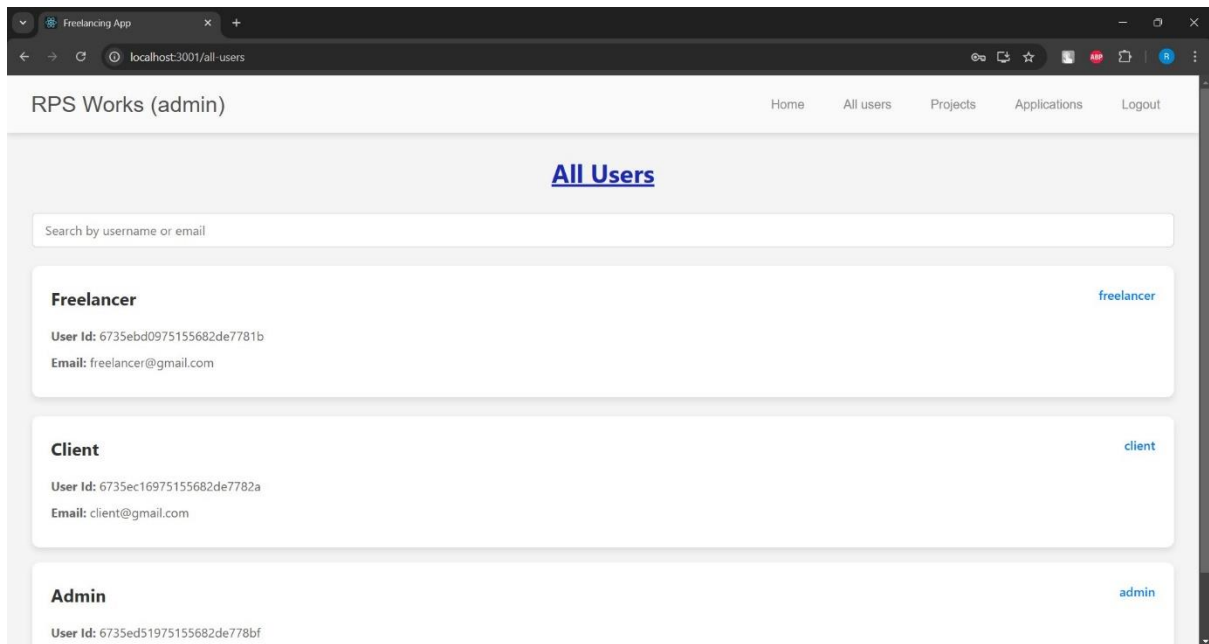
- **Client's Applications page**



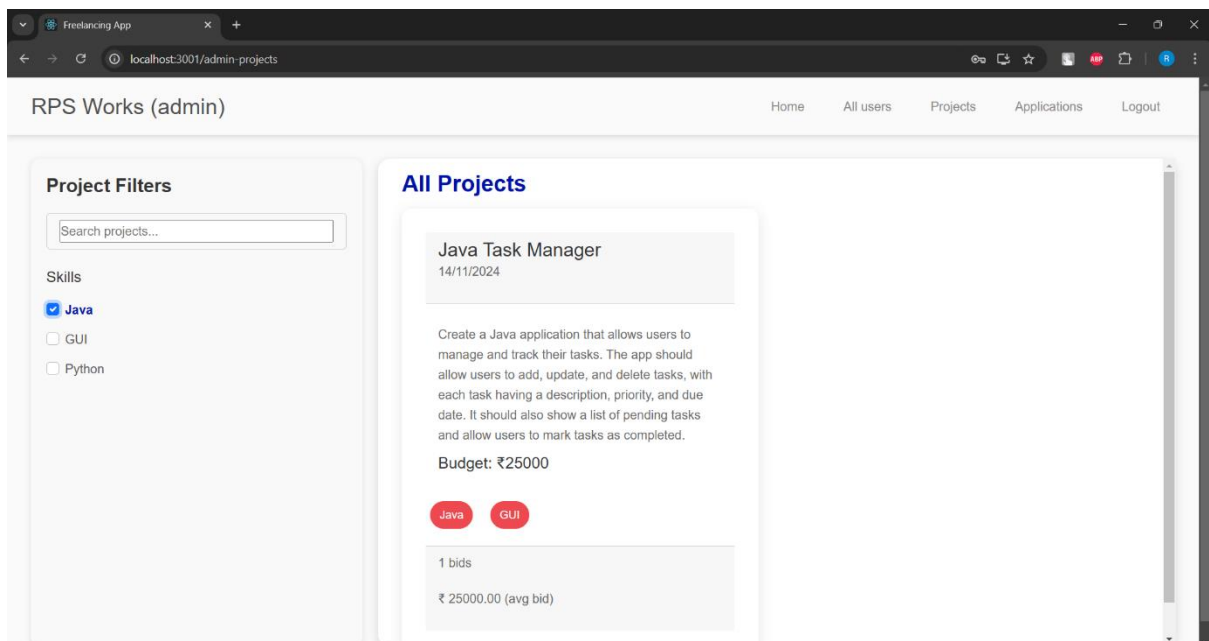
- **Admin's Home page**



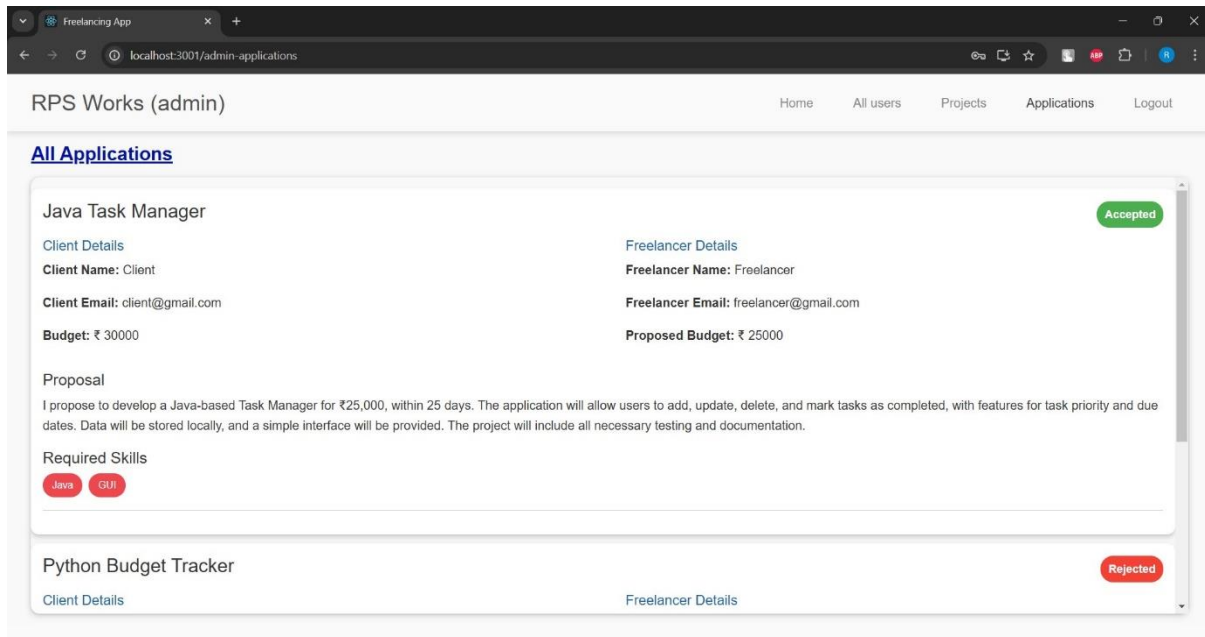
- **Admin's All users page**



- **Admin's All Projects page**



- **Admin's All Applications page**



The demo of the app is available at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kxbnWgPMxBk69sH4b41MZr0WC5yWXOFF/view?usp=sharing>

12.KNOWN ISSUES

- **Real-time Chat Lag:** Occasionally, there may be a slight delay in chat messages due to WebSocket response time under high loads.
- **Rendering Issue on Large Data Sets:** Pages with extensive data (such as numerous bids or projects) can cause slow rendering.

13.FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

- **Notifications:** Implement notification systems to alert users of new bids, project approvals, and messages.
- **Payment Integration:** Add a secure payment system to facilitate direct payments between clients and freelancers.
- **Enhanced Project Filters:** Allow freelancers to filter available projects by criteria such as budget, timeline to find suitable opportunities faster.

14.CONCLUSION

RPS Works is a robust freelancing platform built with the MERN stack, offering features like user registration, project posting, bidding, real-time chat, and admin oversight. The project effectively demonstrates how MongoDB, Express, React, and Node.js can be integrated to create a seamless, user-friendly experience for clients and freelancers. Our team collaborated to address challenges in real-time communication, role-specific functionality, and security, creating a functional prototype with room for future enhancements like payment integration. Overall, RPS Works exemplifies a full-stack application that supports efficient project management in the gig economy.