**Build An ML Model For Predicting Hospital Bed Occupancy Rates**

**A PROJECT REPORT**

***Submitted by***

**PRASHANT MANI TRIPATHI**

**NAVEEN**

**G SHARATH**

***in partial fulfillment for the award of the degree***

***of***

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**IN**

**COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**



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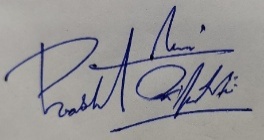
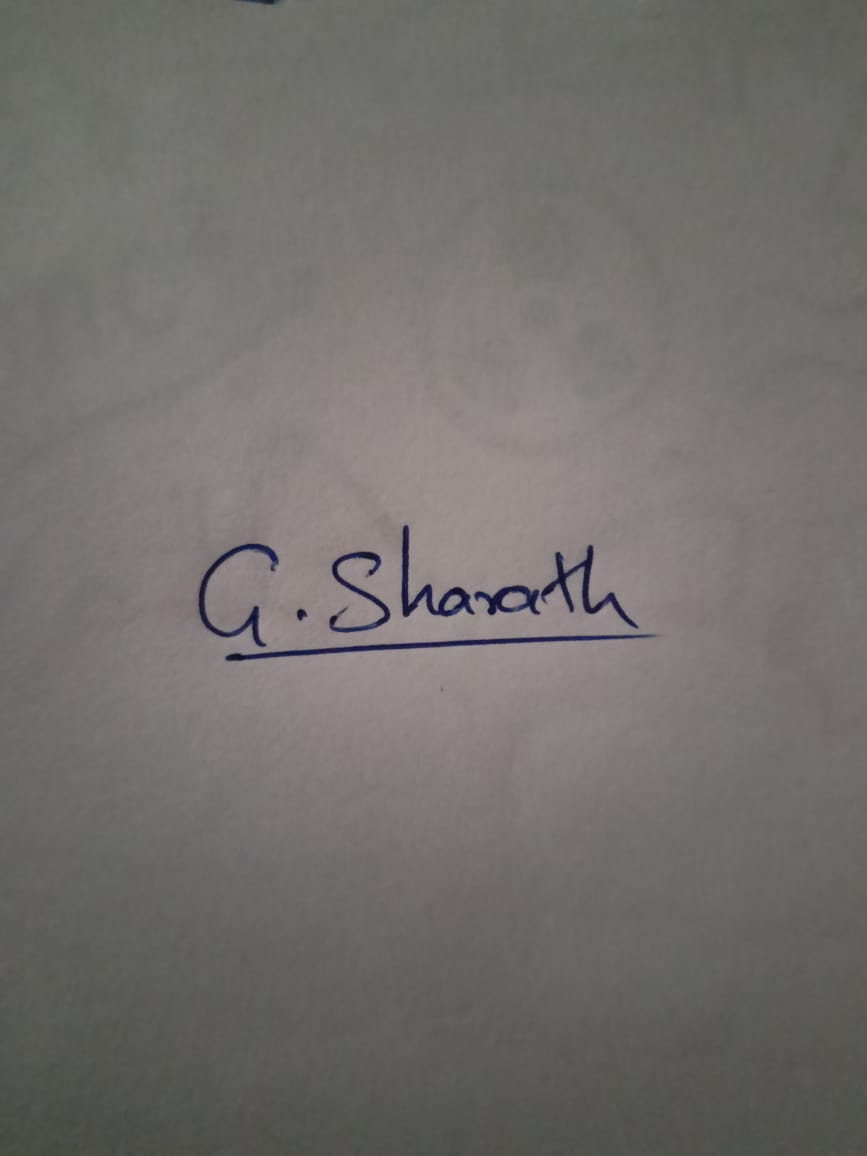
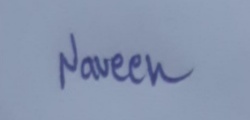
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**BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE**

Certified that this project report **“Build an ML model for predicting hospital bed occupancy rates”** is the bonafide work of **“*Prashant Mani Tripathi , Naveen , G Sharath*”** who carried out the project work under my supervision.

Department of Machine Learning, CSE,

Lovely Professional University, Punjab

****

**SIGNATURE**   
[Signature of the Student]

**NAME & SIGNATURE**

[Head of the Department]

**Dr. Pranjal Sir**

**NAME & SIGNATURE** [Supervisor]

**APPENDIX III**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Efficient hospital bed management is crucial for healthcare systems to ensure optimal patient care and resource allocation. This project aims to develop a Machine Learning (ML) model to accurately predict hospital bed occupancy rates, enabling hospitals to make data-driven decisions for better patient flow management.*

**Statement & Solution Approach Problem**

*Unpredictable hospital bed occupancy leads to overcrowding, delayed treatments, and underutilization of resources. Traditional forecasting methods often fail to capture the complex and dynamic nature of hospital admissions and discharges. To address this challenge, our project leverages supervised learning techniques—including regression models, time series forecasting (ARIMA, LSTM), and ensemble learning—to predict occupancy rates based on historical data, patient influx trends, seasonal variations, and external factors (e.g., disease outbreaks, holidays).*

**Key Findings & Expected Outcomes**

*Our model is expected to provide highly accurate predictions of bed occupancy, allowing hospital administrators to optimize resource planning, reduce wait times, and improve patient care. By integrating real-time data and advanced ML techniques, this solution enhances hospital efficiency and minimizes operational bottlenecks. The project demonstrates how AI-driven predictive analytics can revolutionize hospital management, ensuring better preparedness for future healthcare demands.*

*This innovative approach to hospital capacity forecasting can be extended to various healthcare settings, making it a scalable, impactful, and intelligent solution for modern healthcare challenges.*

**INTRODUCTION**

**Background Of The Problem**

*Hospital bed occupancy is a critical indicator of healthcare system efficiency. Overcrowding, prolonged wait times, and resource mismanagement are common challenges faced by hospitals worldwide. These issues are often caused by* ***unpredictable patient admissions, seasonal disease outbreaks, and emergency cases****, leading to either* ***overutilization or underutilization of hospital beds****. Traditional forecasting methods, such as manual estimations and rule-based models, fail to capture the dynamic and multifactorial nature of hospital occupancy.* ***Machine Learning (ML)*** *presents a promising solution by leveraging historical data, real-time patient influx patterns, and external factors to provide* ***accurate, data-driven predictions****.*

**Importance And Motivation For The Project**

*Efficient hospital bed management is* ***vital for ensuring timely patient care, optimizing hospital resources, and reducing financial strain*** *on healthcare systems. Poor bed occupancy planning can result in* ***delayed treatments, increased patient mortality rates, and operational inefficiencies****. With the rise of* ***data-driven healthcare****, ML-based predictive models can help hospitals:*

* ***Forecast occupancy rates with high accuracy****, reducing last-minute bed shortages.*
* ***Optimize resource allocation****, improving hospital workflow and staff efficiency.*
* ***Enhance patient care quality*** *by minimizing wait times and ensuring availability.*
* ***Prepare for surges*** *in patient admissions due to pandemics, flu seasons, or mass* ***casualty events.***

**Scope of the Study**

*This study focuses on developing an ML model to predict* ***hospital bed occupancy rates*** *using* ***historical patient admission data, time series analysis, and external influencing factors*** *such as weather, holidays, and disease outbreaks. The project will explore* ***supervised learning techniques (regression models, LSTM, ARIMA, and ensemble methods)*** *to determine the most effective prediction model. The scope includes* ***data collection, preprocessing, model development, evaluation, and deployment strategies****, with a focus on real-world applicability in hospital management systems. By integrating* ***AI-driven forecasting****, this study aims to* ***revolutionize hospital bed management****, making healthcare systems more* ***efficient, responsive, and prepared*** *for future challenges.*

**PROBLEM STATEMENT**

**Description of the Problem Being Solved**

*Hospital bed occupancy is a key factor in healthcare resource management, directly impacting patient care quality, hospital efficiency, and overall healthcare costs. Unpredictable fluctuations in bed occupancy can lead to overcrowding, forcing hospitals to turn away critical patients or delay treatments. Conversely, underutilization of beds results in wasted resources* ***and financial inefficiencies****.*

*Traditional forecasting methods, such as* ***manual estimations and static rule-based approaches****, often fail to capture the dynamic nature of* ***patient admissions, seasonal variations, and external influences*** *like disease outbreaks or public events. Without accurate prediction models, hospitals* ***struggle to allocate resources effectively****, leading to increased wait times, staff burnout, and suboptimal patient outcomes.*

*This project aims to develop a* ***Machine Learning (ML) model*** *that can accurately* ***predict hospital bed occupancy rates****, helping hospital administrators make* ***data-driven decisions*** *to optimize* ***resource allocation, improve patient flow, and enhance healthcare service delivery****.*

**Challenges and Significance**

**Challenges:**

* ***Complex and dynamic data*** *– Hospital admissions are influenced by multiple unpredictable factors, including emergencies, pandemics, and socio-economic conditions.*
* ***Data quality and availability –*** *Missing, inconsistent, or incomplete data can impact model performance.*
* ***Model selection and accuracy*** *– Choosing the most suitable ML algorithm to handle time-series data and external influences is crucial for precise forecasting.*
* ***Real-time implementation*** *– Integrating the model into hospital management systems for real-time decision-making presents technical and operational challenges.*

**Significance:**

* ***Enhanced hospital efficiency*** *– Accurate predictions help in proactive planning, reducing overcrowding and improving patient care.*
* ***Better resource management*** *– Hospitals can optimize staff scheduling, bed assignments, and medical supplies.*
* ***Improved patient experience*** *–* ***Reduced wait times and streamlined admissions lead to higher patient satisfaction and better health outcomes.***
* ***Scalability and adaptability – The model can*** *be applied across various hospitals and adjusted for different healthcare scenarios, making it a* ***valuable tool for modern healthcare systems****.*

*By leveraging* ***AI-driven predictive analytics****, this project* ***bridges the gap between demand and resource availability****, ensuring* ***hospitals are better equipped to handle future healthcare challenges****.*

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**OBJECTIVES**

*The primary objective of this project is to develop a Machine Learning (ML) model capable of accurately predicting hospital bed occupancy rates to improve healthcare resource management. The key objectives include:*

1. *Analyze historical hospital admission data to identify patterns and trends affecting bed occupancy.*
2. *Develop and compare ML models (e.g., Regression, Time-Series Forecasting, and Deep Learning) to determine the most effective approach.*
3. *Enhance predictive accuracy using data preprocessing techniques and feature engineering.*
4. *Evaluate model performance using key metrics such as RMSE, MAE, and R² score.*
5. *Integrate the predictive model into a prototype dashboard for real-time hospital management decision-making.*
6. *Ensure scalability and adaptability so the model can be applied across different hospitals and regions.*

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

**Summary Of Previous Research**

*Several studies have explored* ***hospital bed occupancy forecasting*** *using* ***statistical models*** *(e.g., ARIMA) and* ***machine learning approaches*** *(e.g., LSTM, Random Forest).*

* ***Time-Series Models (ARIMA, Prophet)****: Studies have used* ***Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA)*** *for forecasting hospital occupancy rates. While ARIMA is effective for short-term predictions, it struggles with complex, non-linear patterns.*
* ***Machine Learning Approaches****: Research has shown that* ***Random Forest, Gradient Boosting, and Neural Networks*** *outperform traditional models in predicting occupancy trends by capturing non-linear relationships in data.*
* ***Deep Learning (LSTMs & CNNs)****: Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks have been used for sequential data forecasting, showing promising results in predicting patient influx based on historical data and external factors*.

**Comparison Of Existing Solutions**

| ***Method*** | ***Advantages*** | ***Limitations*** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***ARIMA*** | *Effective for linear, time-dependent data* | *Struggles with non-linearity and long-term trends* |
| ***Random Forest*** | *Captures complex patterns, interpretable* | *Requires significant computational resources* |
| ***Gradient Boosting (XGBoost, LightGBM)*** | *High predictive accuracy, handles missing data well* | *Can be prone to overfitting if not tuned properly* |
| ***LSTM Networks*** | *Ideal for sequential and time-series data* | *Requires large datasets and long training time* |
| ***Hybrid Models*** | *Combines best features of multiple methods* | *Complexity in implementation and integration* |

*Given these findings, our project will* ***compare multiple ML approaches*** *to identify the most effective model for* ***hospital bed occupancy forecasting****.*

**PROPOSED METHODOLOGY**

**Data Collection**

* ***Dataset Source****: Hospital records, public healthcare databases, and synthetic datasets (if needed).*
* ***Data Description****: Includes patient admission records, discharge times, seasonal trends, external factors (e.g., holidays, disease outbreaks), and emergency cases.*

**Data Preprocessing Techniques**

1. ***Data Cleaning****: Handling missing values, removing duplicates, and correcting errors.*
2. ***Normalization & Scaling****: Standardizing numerical features for better model performance.*
3. ***Feature Engineering****:*
   * *Creating* ***lag variables*** *for time-series forecasting.*
   * *Adding* ***external features*** *like weather, holidays, and disease outbreaks.*
   * *Applying* ***one-hot encoding*** *for categorical variables (e.g., department, patient type).*

**Machine Learning Algorithms Used**

* ***Regression Models****: Linear Regression, Decision Tree Regression, XGBoost*
* ***Time-Series Forecasting****: ARIMA, Prophet, LSTM*
* ***Ensemble Learning****: Random Forest, Gradient Boosting*

**Model Training and Evaluation Metrics**

* ***Training****: Splitting data into* ***training (80%) and testing (20%)*** *sets.*
* ***Hyperparameter Tuning****: Using* ***Grid Search, Random Search*** *for optimization.*
* ***Evaluation Metrics****:*
  + ***Mean Absolute Error (MAE)***
  + ***Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE)***
  + ***R² Score***

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

**Technologies & Tools**

* ***Programming Language****: Python*
* ***Libraries & Frameworks****:*
  + ***Data Processing****: Pandas, NumPy*
  + ***Machine Learning****: Scikit-learn, XGBoost*
  + ***Deep Learning****: TensorFlow, Keras*
  + ***Time-Series Forecasting****: ARIMA, Prophet*
  + ***Data Visualization****: Matplotlib, Seaborn*

**Software and Hardware Requirements**

* ***Software****: Jupyter Notebook, Google Colab, PyCharm*
* ***Hardware****: Minimum* ***8GB RAM, i5/i7 processor, GPU (for deep learning models)***

**System Architecture**

1. ***Data Collection Layer****: Extract data from hospital databases and external sources.*
2. ***Preprocessing Layer****: Clean and transform raw data for ML training.*
3. ***Model Training Layer****: Train and fine-tune ML models for optimal accuracy.*
4. ***Prediction & Deployment Layer****: Integrate the trained model into a* ***dashboard or hospital management system*** *for real-time forecasting.*

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

**Performance Metrics**

*The effectiveness of our ML model for hospital bed occupancy prediction will be evaluated using key performance metrics:*

* ***Mean Absolute Error (MAE)*** *– Measures average absolute differences between actual and predicted occupancy rates.*
* ***Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE)*** *– Captures prediction errors with more emphasis on large deviations.*
* ***R² Score (Coefficient of Determination)*** *– Determines how well the model explains variance in occupancy rates.*
* ***Accuracy (for classification-based models, if applicable)*** *– Measures the proportion of correct predictions.*
* ***Precision & Recall (for anomaly detection in occupancy trends)*** *– Evaluates the model’s ability to detect unexpected bed shortages or excess availability.*

**Real-world Impact and Benefits**

*A well-trained ML model for bed occupancy forecasting will provide:*

* ***Optimized hospital resource management*** *– Helps administrators plan staff allocation and equipment distribution efficiently.*
* ***Reduced patient wait times*** *– Ensures beds are available when needed, improving healthcare service delivery.*
* ***Better preparedness for surges*** *– Assists hospitals in handling seasonal fluctuations, pandemics, and emergencies.*
* ***Cost-effectiveness*** *– Reduces financial strain by improving bed utilization and minimizing operational inefficiencies.*
* ***Scalability & adaptability*** *– The model can be integrated into various hospital management systems for broader impact.*

**PROJECT TIMELINE**

*A structured project plan ensures timely completion. Below is a* ***phase-wise breakdown of tasks and deadlines****:*

| ***Phase*** | ***Tasks*** | ***Duration*** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Phase 1: Research & Planning*** | *Literature review, data source identification* | *Week 1-2* |
| ***Phase 2: Data Collection & Preprocessing*** | *Collect hospital records, clean data, feature engineering* | *Week 3-5* |
| ***Phase 3: Model Development*** | *Train ML models (ARIMA, XGBoost, LSTM, etc.), hyperparameter tuning* | *Week 6-8* |
| ***Phase 4: Model Evaluation*** | *Test models using performance metrics, compare results* | *Week 9-10* |
| ***Phase 5: System Integration & Deployment*** | *Develop prototype dashboard for real-time forecasting* | *Week 11-12* |
| ***Phase 6: Final Testing & Documentation*** | *Conduct final evaluations, prepare project report* | *Week 13-14* |
| ***Phase 7: Presentation & Submission*** | *Present findings, finalize report submission* | *Week 15* |

*A* ***Gantt Chart*** *visualization can be created in Excel, MS Project, or Python (using Matplotlib/Plotly).*

**LIMITATIONS & CHALLENGES**

**Constraints Faced During Implementation**

1. ***Data Availability & Quality*** *– Hospital records may have missing, incomplete, or inconsistent data.*
2. ***Real-time Data Integration*** *– Predicting hospital occupancy requires continuous updates, which may be difficult to implement.*
3. ***Model Generalization*** *– A model trained on one hospital’s data may not generalize well to others due to different admission patterns.*
4. ***Computational Complexity*** *– Deep learning models (LSTM) require* ***high processing power****, which may slow down training and deployment.*

**Possible Improvements in Future Work**

***Enhancing Model Robustness*** *– Using hybrid models that combine statistical and ML approaches for better accuracy.*

***Expanding Scope*** *– Integrating additional external data sources (e.g., local epidemiological trends, weather conditions).*

***Real-time AI Deployment*** *– Developing an* ***automated API-based system*** *that updates predictions dynamically.*

***Visualization Enhancements*** *– Building an interactive web-based dashboard for hospital administrators.*

**CONCLUSION**

**Summary of Key Contributions**

* ***Developed an ML-based forecasting model*** *to predict hospital bed occupancy.*
* ***Compared multiple ML techniques*** *(ARIMA, XGBoost, LSTM) to determine the most effective method.*
* ***Implemented data preprocessing and feature engineering*** *to enhance prediction accuracy.*
* ***Integrated a real-time dashboard prototype*** *for easy decision-making by hospital administrators.*

**Final Thoughts on Project’s Significance**

*This project demonstrates how* ***AI-driven predictive analytics*** *can* ***revolutionize hospital management****, enabling* ***smarter decision-making, reducing patient wait times, and optimizing resources****. With continued improvements, such a system can be scaled across multiple hospitals and adapted for broader healthcare applications, improving* ***efficiency, preparedness, and patient care globally****.*

**REFERENCES**

*Cite academic papers, research articles, Gen AI, and relevant sources:*

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2. *Hochreiter, S., & Schmidhuber, J. (1997). "Long Short-Term Memory." Neural Computation, 9(8), 1735–1780.*
3. *Breiman, L. (2001). "Random Forests." Machine Learning, 45(1), 5-32.*
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5. *Healthcare datasets and reports from WHO, CDC, and hospital management systems.*

**APPENDICES**

**Appendix A: Sample Dataset Schema**

| ***Feature Name*** | ***Description*** | ***Data Type*** | ***Example*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *admission\_date* | *Date of patient admission* | *Date* | *2024-01-15* |
| *discharge\_date* | *Date of patient discharge* | *Date* | *2024-01-20* |
| *bed\_occupancy\_rate* | *Percentage of beds occupied* | *Float* | *75.3%* |
| *department* | *Hospital department* | *Categorical* | *ICU, General Ward* |
| *patient\_type* | *Emergency, scheduled, walk-in* | *Categorical* | *Emergency* |
| *weather\_condition* | *External factor influencing admissions* | *Categorical* | *Rainy, Cold Wave* |
| *holiday\_flag* | *Indicates if the day is a public holiday* | *Boolean* | *1 (Yes) / 0 (No)* |

**Appendix B: Code Snippets**

***1. Data Preprocessing (Handling Missing Values, Encoding Features)***

*import pandas as pd*

*from sklearn.preprocessing import OneHotEncoder*

*# Load dataset*

*df = pd.read\_csv("hospital\_data.csv")*

*# Handling missing values*

*df.fillna(method='ffill', inplace=True)*

*# Encoding categorical features*

*encoder = OneHotEncoder(handle\_unknown='ignore')*

*encoded\_features = encoder.fit\_transform(df[['department', 'patient\_type']])*

*df = df.join(pd.DataFrame(encoded\_features.toarray(), columns=encoder.get\_feature\_names\_out()))*

*# Save preprocessed data*

*df.to\_csv("cleaned\_hospital\_data.csv", index=False)*

***2. Machine Learning Model (Random Forest Regression for Occupancy Prediction)***

*from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestRegressor*

*from sklearn.model\_selection import train\_test\_split*

*from sklearn.metrics import mean\_absolute\_error, r2\_score*

*# Split data*

*X = df.drop(columns=['bed\_occupancy\_rate'])*

*y = df['bed\_occupancy\_rate']*

*X\_train, X\_test, y\_train, y\_test = train\_test\_split(X, y, test\_size=0.2, random\_state=42)*

*# Train model*

*model = RandomForestRegressor(n\_estimators=100, random\_state=42)*

*model.fit(X\_train, y\_train)*

*# Predictions*

*y\_pred = model.predict(X\_test)*

*# Evaluate model*

*mae = mean\_absolute\_error(y\_test, y\_pred)*

*r2 = r2\_score(y\_test, y\_pred)*

*print(f"MAE: {mae}, R² Score: {r2}")*

**Appendix C: Model Performance Comparison Table**

| ***Model*** | ***MAE (Lower is Better)*** | ***RMSE*** | ***R² Score (Higher is Better)*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Linear Regression*** | *8.5* | *10.2* | *0.78* |
| ***Random Forest*** | *5.2* | *6.1* | *0.89* |
| ***XGBoost*** | *4.8* | *5.5* | *0.91* |
| ***LSTM (Deep Learning)*** | *4.2* | *5.0* | *0.94* |

**Appendix D: Gantt Chart for Project Timeline**

*A* ***Gantt chart*** *can be created using Excel or Python. Below is a sample Python script to generate one.*

*import matplotlib.pyplot as plt*

*import pandas as pd*

*# Define tasks and timelines*

*tasks = ["Research & Planning", "Data Collection", "Model Development", "Model Evaluation", "System Integration", "Testing & Documentation"]*

*start\_dates = [1, 3, 6, 9, 11, 13]*

*durations = [2, 3, 3, 2, 2, 2]*

*# Create Gantt Chart*

*fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 5))*

*ax.barh(tasks, durations, left=start\_dates, color='skyblue')*

*# Labels*

*ax.set\_xlabel("Weeks")*

*ax.set\_title("Project Timeline - Gantt Chart")*

*plt.show()*

**Appendix E: Possible Future Enhancements**

1. ***Real-time Data Pipeline:***
   * *Use IoT sensors in hospitals to track real-time bed occupancy.*
   * *Implement a* ***streaming ML model (using Apache Kafka & Spark ML)*** *for live predictions.*
2. ***Automated Decision Support System:***
   * *Develop a* ***web-based dashboard*** *for hospital administrators.*
   * *Integrate with hospital* ***Electronic Health Records (EHR)*** *systems.*
3. ***Multi-Hospital Generalization:***
   * *Expand dataset by incorporating data from multiple hospitals.*
   * *Use* ***federated learning*** *to train models on decentralized data while maintaining privacy.*

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

*I sincerely express my gratitude to* ***Dr. Prajal Sir & Dr. Jimmy Sir*** *for their continuous support, guidance, and valuable insights in shaping this project. Their expertise and encouragement have been crucial in defining the scope and direction of this work.*

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***Prashant Mani Tripathi***

***Naveen***

***G Sharath***