

1. Scope, Objectives, Approach, and Expected Impact

Scope

Habitat-AI is a hyper-local audit and transparency platform designed exclusively for students residing in Mathikere, Gokula, and New BEL Road (MSRIT vicinity).

- **In-Scope:** The platform focuses on auditing accommodation safety, verifying food hygiene in messes/hotels, and utilizing AI to summarize qualitative reviews.
- **Out-of-Scope:** The system explicitly excludes booking features, rent processing, or real-estate brokerage services to maintain neutrality as an audit tool.

Objectives

- **Establish a Trusted Audit System:** To create a student-driven, data-verified repository for PG and Mess standards.
- **Eliminate Information Asymmetry:** To combat misleading advertisements and fake photos by prioritizing peer-verified content.
- **Enhance Decision Efficiency:** To replace the need for reading hundreds of long reviews with instant, AI-generated "Pros & Cons" summaries.
- **Drive Accountability:** To force service providers to maintain hygiene and safety standards through visible, public performance metrics.

Approach

Our solution utilizes the MERN Stack (MongoDB, Express, React, Node.js) integrated with Generative AI to deliver three core modules:

1. **Accommodation Audit Module:** A structured rating system for PGs where users verify specific amenities (Wi-Fi speed, Water backup, Security) rather than just giving generic star ratings.
2. **Mess Module:** A visual-first feed where students upload photos of meals and kitchen conditions.
3. **AI-Powered Sentiment Summarization:** The backend integrates the **Google Gemini API** to process unstructured text reviews. It filters out emotional noise and extracts actionable insights (e.g., "Consistently salty food," "Rude warden"), presenting them as a concise summary.

Expected Impact

- **Student Welfare:** Significant reduction in health risks (food poisoning) and financial loss (deposit scams) due to informed decision-making.
- **Market Correction:** Service providers (PG/Mess owners) will be compelled to improve infrastructure and hygiene to avoid negative AI summaries, creating a competitive, quality-driven market.
- **Community Data:** Long-term aggregation of data on "unsafe zones" (dark streets, waterlogging) that can be shared with local authorities for urban maintenance.

2. Team Roles & Responsibilities

- **Project Lead & Full Stack Architect:**
 - Defining the system architecture and database schema.
 - Managing the GitHub repository and integrating Frontend with Backend.
- **Backend & AI Developer:**
 - Developing RESTful APIs using **Node.js** and **Express**.
 - Integrating the **Google Gemini API** for the review summarization logic.
 - Managing database connections with **MongoDB Atlas**.
- **Frontend Developer (UI/UX):**
 - Building the responsive client interface using **React.js** and **Tailwind CSS**.
 - Designing intuitive "Audit Forms" for uploading reviews and photos.
- **Data & Quality Assurance Specialist:**
 - Collecting initial "seed data" (real reviews from MSRIT students) to populate the demo.
 - Implementing content moderation guidelines to prevent spam.
 - Testing the application across desktop and mobile.
 - Ensuring the project aligns with the "Urban Maintenance" and "Public Services" themes.

3. Requirements / Resources Needed

Technical Requirements

- **Frontend:** React.js (Vite), Tailwind CSS.
- **Backend:** Node.js, Express.js.
- **Database:** MongoDB Atlas (NoSQL) for storing user profiles, PG details, and reviews.
- **AI/ML Integration:** Google Gemini API for Natural Language Processing.
- **Cloud Storage:** Cloudinary for hosting user-uploaded images (Mess food/Room conditions).
- **Version Control:** Git & GitHub.

Non-Technical Resources

- **Dataset:** Initial collection of details for 5-10 popular PGs and Messes in Mathikere for the prototype.
- **Access:** Participation of MSRIT students for beta testing and feedback.

4. Sources / References

Technical Documentation

1. **Google AI Studio Docs:** For implementing the Gemini API and prompt engineering for summarization. (ai.google.dev)
2. **React.js Documentation:** For component lifecycle and state management. (react.dev)
3. **MongoDB Atlas Documentation:** For schema design and cloud database deployment. (mongodb.com/docs)

Contextual References

4. Local Problem Statement: Informal surveys conducted with MSRIT hostel/PG students regarding food safety and rent transparency.

5. Benchmarking: Analysis of existing platforms (e.g., Stanza Living, Zomato) to identify gaps in the unorganized, hyper-local market sector.