

INDUSTRY TALK BY BANASREE PAUL, UNIVERSITY RECRUITER, SALESFORCE - SEP 10 THRIVING IN THE AI ERA

The Career Design Center (CDC) organized an industry interaction on “Thriving in the AI Era – Future of Work & Career Guide for Freshers”, featuring **Ms. Banasree Paul**, University Recruiter, Salesforce. The session focused on helping students understand the changing nature of work, emerging career opportunities, and the skills expected from freshers in an AI-driven industry environment. The discussion highlighted the transition from conventional AI and machine-learning systems towards generative and agentic AI, with emphasis on using AI as a productivity and augmentation tool.

The session provided students with practical guidance on AI tools, coding and productivity platforms, AI integration, automation, data and machine-learning skills, and career-specific AI readiness. It emphasized that strong fundamentals such as data structures and algorithms, problem-solving, Python, SQL, Git, cloud basics, critical thinking, adaptability, and communication continue to be important alongside modern AI capabilities. Students were also introduced to AI-enabled interview practices, portfolio development, project-based learning, and a structured 30-day preparation roadmap. The interaction reinforced the CDC’s objective of developing future-ready, adaptable, and industry-oriented graduates by encouraging students to combine strong technical foundations with effective and responsible use of AI.



FORGE ALUMNUS - MICROSOFT CODE-A-THON 2.0 - SEP 15, 2026

Forge Alumnus, in partnership with Microsoft, conducted Code-a-thon 2.0 on 15 Sep at the Activity Block, HITAM Campus, providing students with an opportunity to demonstrate their problem-solving, programming, and collaborative skills in an industry-oriented competitive environment. A total of 287 students, participating in teams of 2–4 members, registered and took part in the preliminary round. The Codeathon featured five problem statements, from which each team was required to select one problem statement and develop a solution, encouraging students to apply their technical knowledge to practical problem-solving scenarios.

The event also provided direct interaction with industry professionals from Microsoft. **Mr. Anjaneya Prasad, Principal Product Manager, Microsoft**, and **Ms. Vaishnavi, Software Engineer, Microsoft**, addressed the participants and served as members of the evaluation panel, reviewing the solutions and problem statements presented by the teams. Following the preliminary round, 40 shortlisted students progressed to the final round at the Microsoft office. The Codeathon 2.0 strengthened students' exposure to real-world technology practices while fostering coding proficiency, analytical thinking, teamwork, innovation, and industry readiness. The initiative also reflected the CDC's efforts to facilitate meaningful industry-academia and alumni-industry engagement and create pathways for students to interact directly with leading technology professionals.



Sep 2026

A TALK WITH TECHPRENEUR & PROJECT MANAGER PROJECT EXPO AND INDUSTRY TALK - SEP 17

Mr. Sudeesh Narayanan, Entrepreneur,
Co-Founder and CTO, Voice India AI

Mr. Sai Kiran, Project Manager,
Boolean Data Systems

The Career Design Center (CDC) organized “A Talk with Techpreneur & Project Expo” on 17 September, featuring Mr. Sudeesh Narayanan, Entrepreneur, Co-Founder & CTO, Voice India AI, and Mr. Sai Kiran, Project Manager, Boolean Data Systems. The first half of the day featured a Project Expo, where HITAM students presented their projects and demonstrated their technical ideas and applications. The expo provided students with an opportunity to showcase their work and receive industry-oriented feedback.

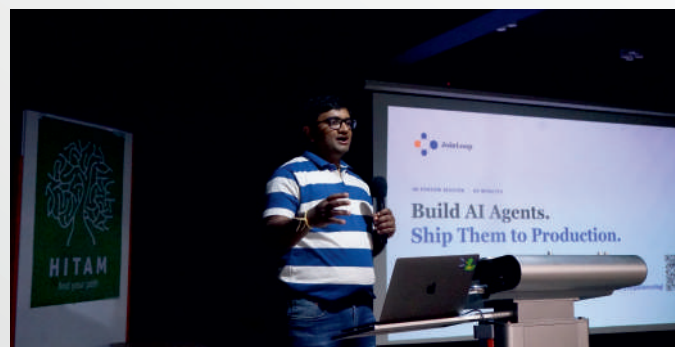
The post-lunch session comprised an interactive discussion with the project presenters, focusing on project enhancement, adoption of better technologies, and practical improvements. A major emphasis was placed on the growing role of Artificial Intelligence across multiple disciplines and its potential to accelerate application development. Mr. Sudeesh Narayanan highlighted the diverse applications of AI, the pace of technological advancement, and encouraged students through insights from his own journey as a techpreneur. Mr. Sai Kiran provided students with insights into project management practices, relevant professional skills, and career opportunities in the project management domain. The interaction strengthened students’ exposure to industry expectations and encouraged them to approach projects with greater technological relevance, innovation, and career orientation.



BUILD AI AGENTS AND SHIP THEM TO PRODUCTION MR. PALLAV RUSTOGI, CO-FOUNDER JOINLOOP, EX-MICROSOFT

The Career Design Center (CDC) organized an industry interaction on “Build AI Agents and Ship Them to Production”, led by **Mr. Pallav Rustogi, Co-Founder, Join Loop and former Microsoft professional**. The session provided students with practical insights into the evolving landscape of Artificial Intelligence and AI Agents, with emphasis on moving beyond experimentation towards designing, developing, testing, and deploying production-ready AI agent solutions.

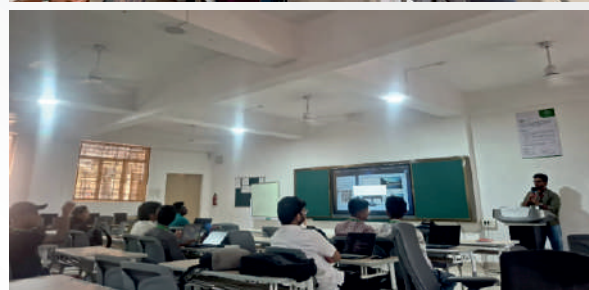
Around 150 students participated and benefited from the interaction. The session encouraged students to explore practical applications of AI and understand the importance of converting AI concepts and experiments into functional, deployable solutions. The interaction was further enriched through direct engagement between the speaker and students, with a few students getting the opportunity to showcase their projects and receive interaction-based feedback. The session strengthened students’ awareness of emerging AI technologies and encouraged a build-and-deploy mindset aligned with evolving industry requirements.



FROM PROMPT TO PRODUCT - BUILDING A RAG-BASED GEN AI APPLICATION - SEP 18

The Career Design Center (CDC) organized a hands-on technical session aimed at providing students with practical exposure to emerging Generative AI technologies, including Large Language Models (LLMs), Prompt Engineering, Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), Vector Databases, and AI Agents. The session was facilitated by **Mr. Srikanth Parigi, Marketing Operations Manager, Thomson Reuters and Co-Founder, WhiteScholars Academy**, and **Mr. Ahad, Senior Data Scientist, WhiteScholars**, who introduced students to current industry applications and career opportunities in the Generative AI domain.

The session focused on the architecture and practical application of RAG, covering the workflow of documents » embeddings » vector database » retrieval » LLM, and demonstrated the need for external and private data in developing context-aware AI applications. Students gained exposure to building a document-based AI chatbot and explored the integration of RAG with AI Agents for automation use cases. The hands-on orientation enabled students to understand the technologies and skills relevant to emerging GenAI careers and provided practical insights into developing RAG-based applications using real-world data.



INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The Career Design Center (CDC) organized an Industry Advisory Board Meeting on 19 September, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Auditorium, bringing together industry experts and academic leadership to deliberate on strengthening industry-academia collaboration. The panel comprised **Mr. Nivas, Infosys**; **Mr. Mukesh, VLSIPro**; **Mr. Shirish Tatikonda, Lloyds**; **Mr. Basab Bandyopadhyaya, Mr. Jatinder Singh, Group Captain, Aditya**; **Mr. Ajay Kalhan, MD, Wells Fargo**; **Mr. Tanay Kediya, Gloplax** with **Ms. Sumeeta Hari** serving as the Moderator. The Advisory Board meeting was attended by the Director, Principal, Dean, Head of Departments, Program Heads, and faculty members.

The key focus of the meeting was to identify effective approaches to bridge the existing skills gap between academia and industry and to ensure that students are equipped with competencies relevant to the evolving workplace. Discussions emphasized the need to review and enhance the academic curriculum and learning practices in alignment with current and emerging industrial skill requirements, particularly in the AI era. The board deliberated on future-ready skills, industry expectations, and the need for greater integration of practical, technology-oriented learning into academic programs. The meeting served as a platform for meaningful exchange between academic and industry stakeholders and provided valuable inputs for strengthening curriculum relevance, employability, and career readiness of students.



SOFT SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMME

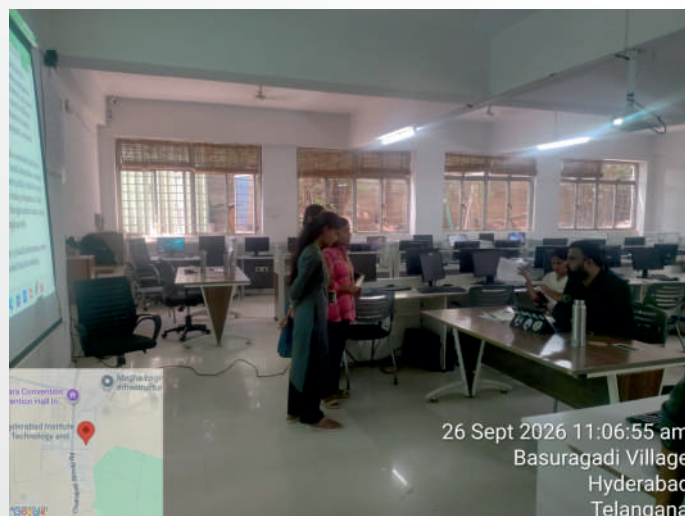
The Career Design Center (CDC) conducted an intensive Soft Skills Training Programme for the II-I 2025–29 Batch, including the ITP section, and III-I 2024–28 Batch from 21 to 23 September. The programme comprised 18 hours of classroom-based training delivered across 30 sections, with dedicated trainers deployed for each section. The training was designed to strengthen students' professional and interpersonal competencies and to initiate structured industry-readiness preparation at an early stage of their academic journey.

A total of 30 industry-experienced trainers, with extensive corporate training and soft-skills facilitation experience, were engaged to deliver the programme. The classroom-based approach enabled focused interaction, practice, and participation across sections. The initiative emphasized the importance of developing workplace-oriented competencies alongside technical knowledge, helping students progressively build the communication, professional behaviour, interpersonal effectiveness, and other employability skills required for successful transition into the corporate environment. The programme reflects the CDC's continued focus on early career preparation, industry-aligned learning, and holistic employability development among students.

PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING (PBL) PROJECT REVIEWS

The Career Design Center (CDC) facilitated Problem-Based Learning (PBL) Project Reviews on 26 September across the HITAM campus. The reviews were conducted throughout the day, branch-wise, with active participation from alumni representing diverse industry domains. The alumni reviewers included **Mr. Eshwar Babu – Optum**, **Mr. Vinay – Director, Litworks**, **Mr. Vishwakanth – SBI**, **Mr. Rahil – Salesforce**, and **Ms. Ishita Roy – Magostays**.

During the review sessions, alumni evaluated the students' project presentations, examined their problem statements and proposed solutions, and provided constructive inputs and suggestions for further enhancement. The interaction enabled students to receive feedback from professionals with industry experience and encouraged them to view their projects from a real-world and industry-oriented perspective. The reviews helped students identify areas for improvement and strengthen the practical relevance, quality, and expected outcomes of their projects. The initiative also reinforced the CDC's efforts to leverage alumni-industry engagement to enhance experiential learning and improve students' project development and career readiness.



CODEATHON FINAL ROUND PREPARATIVE SESSION BY MR. PALLAV RUSTOGI, CO-FOUNDER JOINLOOP, EX-MICROSOFT

The Career Design Center (CDC) organized a preparatory mentoring session on 24 September for students shortlisted for the final round of the Forge Alumnus – Microsoft Codeathon 2.0. Following the preliminary round conducted at HITAM on 15 September, 40 students successfully cleared the round and were shortlisted to participate in the final round to be conducted at the Microsoft Campus, Hyderabad. The session was led by **Mr. Pallav Rustogi, former Microsoft professional**, who brought extensive experience from participating in and judging hackathons and provided focused guidance to the shortlisted students.



The session focused on helping students approach the final round with a stronger problem-solving and product-development perspective. Mr. Pallav guided students on selecting problem statements with wider applicability and the potential to address significant real-world problems, while also considering their feasibility for development as scalable applications and their potential for value and revenue generation. He also emphasized the importance of effectively engaging with the evaluation panel, particularly receiving suggestions positively, responding respectfully, and demonstrating how the feedback can be incorporated into the project. The mentoring session equipped students with practical strategies to present, refine, and strengthen their solutions while preparing them for the expectations of the final round at Microsoft.

CODEATHON FINAL ROUND AT MICROSOFT CAMPUS – 26 SEPTEMBER

The Forge Alumnus–Microsoft Codeathon Final Round was conducted on 26 September at the Microsoft Office, Hyderabad, following the preliminary round held at HITAM. A total of 40 students were shortlisted from the preliminary round and participated in the final round along with teams representing various engineering institutes. The event provided students with an opportunity to compete in an industry-oriented coding environment and demonstrate their problem-solving, technical, and collaborative skills.

Representing HITAM, **Team Stratify Minds - Nikhil Katkuri (Team Leader), Mohith Mathukumalli, Yarasani Charlson, and Yavanika Tallapaka** - secured the 2nd Runner-Up position in the competition. This achievement marks a significant accomplishment for the HITAM students and reflects their technical capabilities, teamwork, problem-solving approach, and performance in a competitive industry setting. The recognition stands as a proud moment for the HITAM community and highlights the impact of providing students with opportunities to engage in industry-led technical challenges and competitive platforms.



ACENTRA HEALTH BUILD TO CARE 2026

Following the successful completion of the Microsoft Codeathon, Forge Alumnus brought another exciting industry opportunity for students through Acentra Health Build to Care 2026, a hiring hackathon by Acentra Health, powered by HackForge.ai. The initiative provided eligible students with a platform to demonstrate their technical skills by working on real-world healthcare technology challenges and engaging with industry-oriented problem-solving.

The hackathon featured a INR1,00,000 prize pool along with an internship opportunity at Acentra Health with a monthly stipend of INR 25,000. Participants also gained exposure to global industry leaders and senior professionals, while benefiting from industry recognition, goodies, and valuable career-oriented experience. The initiative strengthened students' industry readiness by connecting academic learning with practical applications in healthcare technology.

Shortlisted students will participate in Main Hackathon: 8–9 October 2026 | SRM University, Chennai

OFFERS SECURED
THIS MONTH:

2
(from 2022-26 Batch)

