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INSTITUTION'S INNOVATION COUNCIL (Ministry of HRD Initiative)

Report on "Workshop: Using AI for Fundraising & Investor Pitch Preparation"

Title of the Session: "The 0 Rupees AI Engineer: Building Real Things Before You Graduate"

Organized By: Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), Swami Vivekananda University, Kolkata

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Pramit Mitra, Senior Principal Engineer, IT Architecture, Dell Technologies, USA
Mode of Delivery: Off-line
No. of Participants: 47
Nationality: Indian
Duration: 4 Hours
Date: 24th June 2026
Venue/Location: MSB Hall 2A, Swami Vivekananda University, Kolkata

Objectives:

The Department of Computer Science & Engineering, in association with the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), Swami Vivekananda University, successfully organized an expert talk titled **"The 0 Rupees AI Engineer: Building Real Things Before You Graduate"** on **24th June 2026** at **MSB Hall 2A**. The session was delivered by **Mr. Pramit Mitra**, Senior Principal Engineer, IT Architecture, Dell Technologies, USA, who shared his extensive industry experience and practical insights into Artificial Intelligence, Large Language Models (LLMs), prompt engineering, and modern software development. The objective of the session was to inspire students to become industry-ready AI engineers by building real-world projects using freely available AI technologies and practical problem-solving approaches.

The primary objective of the expert talk was to bridge the gap between conventional academic learning and the practical skills demanded by today's technology industry. The session aimed to introduce students to the rapidly evolving AI ecosystem and demonstrate how aspiring engineers can develop innovative AI applications without significant financial investment. It encouraged students to focus on practical project development, understand AI token economics, optimize AI application costs, and adopt modern software engineering practices. Another important objective was to familiarize participants with industry workflows, prompt engineering, AI-powered product development, and effective strategies for building a strong technical portfolio before graduation. The session also promoted innovation, entrepreneurship, and the adoption of AI tools for creating investor-ready technology solutions.

Outcome:

The expert session significantly enhanced participants' understanding of practical Artificial Intelligence, prompt engineering, tokenization, and AI cost optimization. Students gained valuable insights into modern software engineering practices and learned how AI pricing models influence product development decisions. The live demonstrations enabled participants to understand the

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real-world implementation of AI-powered software systems and motivated them to build practical projects using freely available AI resources. The programme also strengthened students' awareness of startup development by introducing AI-assisted investor deck preparation and fundraising strategies. As an outcome of the session, participants developed greater confidence in utilizing AI technologies for innovation, entrepreneurship, and career development. The programme successfully demonstrated AI adoption in fundraising through a live AI tool and guided participants in preparing investor-ready presentations, contributing towards the creation of investor decks and AI-enabled entrepreneurial solutions.

KPI Achievement:

- AI tool demonstrated for startup fundraising and investor pitch preparation: **01**
- Investor deck/pitch preparation methodology demonstrated: **Yes**
- Industry expert interaction conducted: **01**
- Practical AI live demonstrations conducted: **02**
- Interactive question-and-answer session conducted: **01**
- Industry-academia knowledge exchange established: **Successfully achieved**.

Session Highlights:

The programme commenced with the warm felicitation of **Mr. Pramit Mitra** and **Mrs. Mitra** by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Swami Vivekananda University as a mark of appreciation for their valuable presence.

The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor then addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of practical learning, innovation, and Artificial Intelligence in shaping the future of engineering education. He encouraged students to continuously upgrade their skills beyond classroom learning and prepare themselves for the evolving demands of the global technology industry.

Following the Vice Chancellor's address, **Dr. Ranjan Kumar**, Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Convener of the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), Swami Vivekananda University, delivered an insightful speech highlighting the significance of interdisciplinary innovation, startup culture, and practical implementation of emerging technologies. He encouraged students to actively participate in innovation-driven activities and develop solutions that address real-world challenges.

The audience was then introduced to the theme of the programme by **Ms. Mitra**, who briefly explained the concept of becoming a "0 Rupees AI Engineer" by effectively utilizing freely available AI platforms, open-source technologies, and continuous self-learning.

The technical session was subsequently conducted by **Mr. Pramit Mitra**, who began by discussing the agenda and highlighting the difference between what engineering students are traditionally taught and what today's technology companies actually expect from professionals. He

emphasized the growing importance of practical problem-solving, software architecture, AI integration, and continuous learning over theoretical knowledge alone.

A major highlight of the session was the explanation of **AI Tokens**. Using the simple example of the word **"Un-bel-iev-able,"** he demonstrated how Large Language Models process text as tokens rather than complete words and explained why tokenization plays a critical role in determining AI performance, computational efficiency, and operational cost.

The session remained highly interactive as students actively participated by asking questions and sharing their thoughts on AI technologies, software engineering careers, and emerging industry trends.

Live Demonstrations

Live Demonstration 1: AI Tokens and Cost Calculation

The first demonstration focused on explaining how text is converted into tokens and how AI service providers calculate pricing based on token usage. Mr. Mitra explained that **input tokens are comparatively inexpensive while output tokens are significantly more costly**, making prompt optimization an essential aspect of AI application development. He further compared different AI model tiers, illustrating the significant variation in pricing across available models and demonstrating why selecting the appropriate model is important for building scalable AI products.

Live Demonstration 2: Cost Optimization Using AI

The second demonstration involved designing a practical software feature on the whiteboard. Mr. Mitra developed a **Resume Sorting Software** use case and calculated its approximate AI token consumption to estimate the operational cost of implementing such a solution. He demonstrated practical methods to reduce token usage without sacrificing output quality and showcased how developers can optimize AI prompts to significantly lower operational expenses. Participants were also introduced to the **ChatGPT Tokenizer**, where they observed how prompts are broken into tokens and how prompt engineering directly influences application cost and performance.

AI for Startup Fundraising

The session also highlighted the practical application of Artificial Intelligence in startup ecosystems. Mr. Mitra demonstrated how AI tools can assist entrepreneurs in preparing **investor decks and startup pitches**, generating business presentations, refining value propositions, and improving communication with potential investors. The session showcased at least **one AI-powered fundraising tool**, illustrating how AI adoption can accelerate startup planning and business development. Participants learned how AI can reduce the effort required to prepare professional investor presentations and support entrepreneurial decision-making.

Glimpse of the event:

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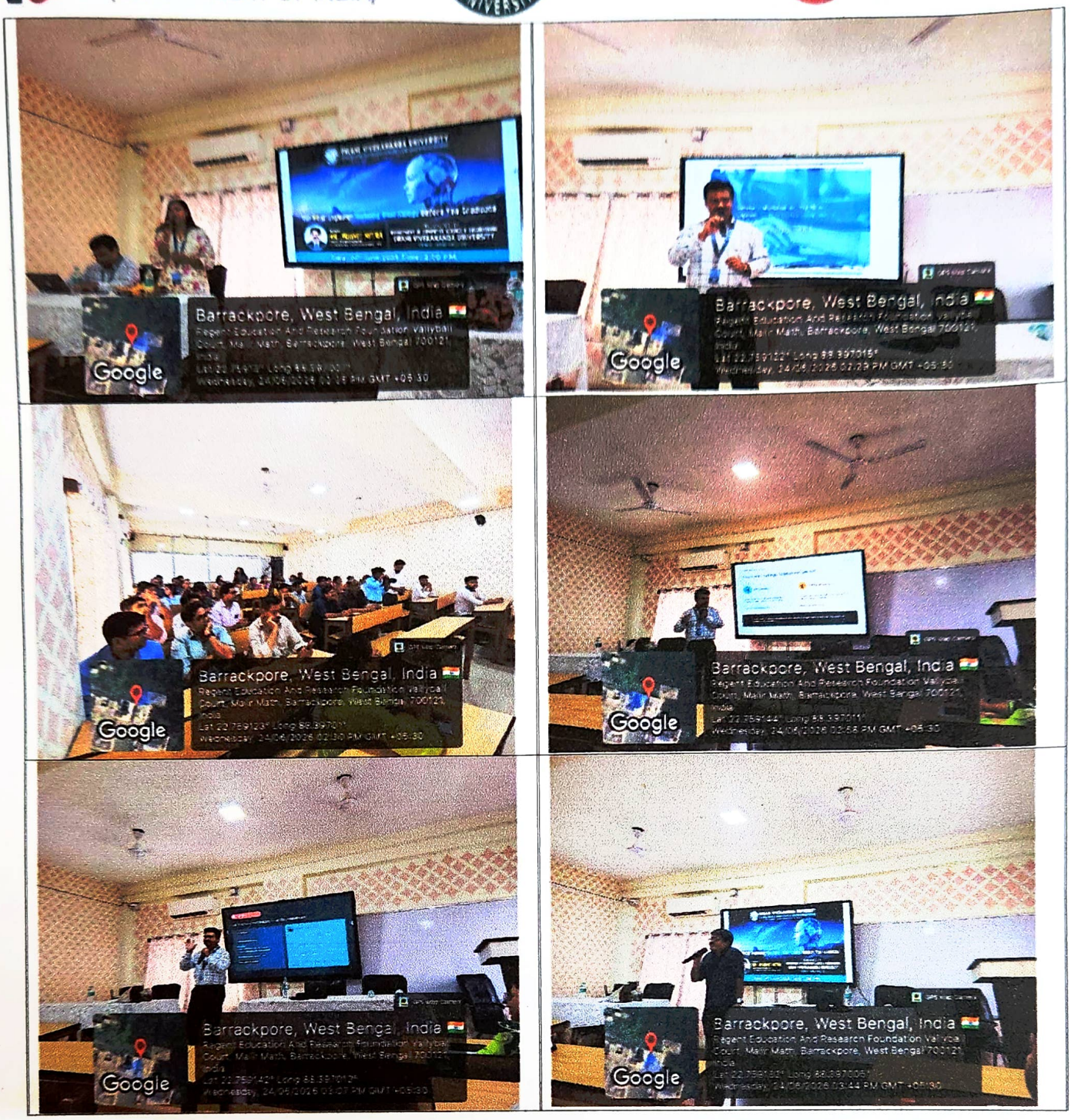

General Participants Feedback:

Participants expressed overwhelming appreciation for the practical and industry-oriented nature of the session. They found the live demonstrations highly informative and relatable, particularly the explanation of tokenization, AI costing, and prompt optimization. Students appreciated the speaker's ability to simplify complex AI concepts through real-world examples and interactive

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discussions. Many participants stated that the session broadened their understanding of career opportunities in Artificial Intelligence and inspired them to begin developing practical AI applications independently using free resources. The event received highly positive feedback for its relevance, engagement, and practical learning approach.

Recommendations:

Based on the enthusiastic response received from participants, similar expert sessions featuring leading professionals from the AI industry should be organized regularly. Future programs may include extended hands-on workshops on prompt engineering, AI application development, Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), AI agents, and deployment of Large Language Models. Conducting hackathons, project competitions, and AI innovation boot camps would further encourage students to translate theoretical knowledge into practical solutions. Establishing continuous industry-academia collaborations with technology leaders would greatly strengthen students' technical competencies, innovation capabilities, and overall employability.

Signature of the Convenor with University Seal

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