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A Report on
"AAPS Hackathon 2025 - Cybersecurity Fraud Detection in an AI-Driven World"
Organized by Department of Computer Science and Technology
in collaboration with HumAInority
on 13th, 18th, 19th and 30th of October 2025

Report Submitted by: Mr. Ashok Kambaluru, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science & Technology.
Participants: B. Tech II Year, III year and IV Students from School of Computing
Attendance: 168 Participants (School Computing)
Venue: Seminar Hall A on 13th and Seminar Hall B on 30th of October 2025, MITS
Mode of Conduct: Offline & Online
Report Received on 04.11.2025.

The AAPS Hackathon 2025 was conceived to help students practice **AI-Augmented Problem Solving (AAPS)** in the context of **cybersecurity fraud detection**, combining hands-on technical work with structured ethical reasoning. The initiative was jointly envisioned by **Mr. Ashok Kambaluru** (CST, MITS (Deemed to be University)) and **Prof. Joseph X. Ng** (HuMAINority). The event ran from its **Opening Ceremony on October 13, 2025,** through the **Closing Ceremony on October 30, 2025**, where winners were felicitated. The hackathon's framing, including the AAPS pedagogy and ethics-infused evaluation, draws on the concepts articulated in the official concept note, with emphasis on use of AI tools to do tasks better.

Institutional Acknowledgments

The Department expresses sincere appreciation to **Prof. Joseph X. Ng**, **Dr. Dinesh K. (Head, CST)**, **Mrs. U. Vijaya Lakshmi (International Relations Officer)**, Dr. Chandra Prakash Gupta, (Dean, School of Computing) the **Management of MITS (Deemed to be University)**, and **Dr. C. Yuvraj (Vice Chancellor, MITS (Deemed to be University))** for their guidance and support throughout the program.

Event Design and Pedagogical Model

- **Learning Model:** The hackathon used the **AAPS** approach to couple model-building with **ETHOS**-guided decision prompts (Empathy, Truth, Humility, Ownership, Stewardship), ensuring that participants considered privacy, risk, and accountability when proposing interventions.
- **Technical Focus:** Teams were tasked with building lightweight, Python-centric fraud-detection prototypes and justifying their choices using transparent metrics (e.g., AUC, precision, recall, F1) and explanatory artifacts such as charts and structured reasoning.

Pictures from the Opening ceremony of AAPS Hackathon 2025 on 13th October 2025 at Seminar Hall A

Operational Flow and Timeline

- **Opening & Orientation (Mon, Oct 13, 2025):** Formal launch at **Seminar Hall – A**. A **sample dataset** was shared to let participants experiment and consolidate prerequisites and tooling.
- **Competitive Phase (Weekend Sprint):** The **training and test datasets** were released on **Saturday morning** of the same week, after giving a time of almost 5 days for necessary preparation to get familiar with what's happening; teams worked intensively through the weekend and submitted code, reports, and deliverables **by Sunday 18:00**.
- **Closing & Awards (Thu, Oct 30, 2025):** Final project showcases and awards at **Seminar Hall – B**, as communicated in the official ceremony invitation.

Judging and Deliverables

- **Deliverables:** Reproducible code (preferably a notebook with narrative explanations), concise documentation, and a brief demo deck.
- **Evaluation Dimensions (AAPS-aligned):** Technical fluency, critical thinking, ethical judgment, and communication clarity.

Results

Participation Summary

- **Registrations:** 60+ teams (168 Sudents) from various departments of School of Computing with team sizes varying from 1 to 3 (maximum).
- **Total Submissions:** 40+ submissions were received.
- **Successfully Completed Submissions:** 17

Table 1. Participation Overview

Metric	Count
Registrations	60+
Submissions	40+
Successfully completed	17

Vice Chancellor, Dr. C. Yuvraj interacting with the collaborator and guest online, Prof. Joseph X. Ng of HuMAINority, while addressing the benefits the students can get from this successful collaboration.

	3rd Prize winners receiving Cash Prize and Certificate of Achievement .
	2nd Prize winners receiving Cash Prize and Certificate of Achievement .
	1st Prize winners receiving Cash Prize and Certificate of Achievement .

Winners and Awards

All three awards were conferred to **teams led by the named student leaders**:

Table 2. Winners

Award	Team (Leader)	Prize	Additional Opportunity
First	**Jagadeesh** G. (III CST)	₹10,000	Collaboration with **Prof. Joseph X. Ng** on the *Virtual Mock Interview Tool*
Second	**Mahesh T.** (IV CST)	₹3,000	—
Third	**Sai Ganesh Reddy M.** (III CST)	₹2,000	—

Special thanks to Mrs. U. Vijaya Lakshmi, for adding an extra ₹5,000 to the initial first winner cash prize of ₹5,000, making it ₹10,000.
Additionally, Certificates were provided to all the teams that have successfully completed the task they have been assigned to in the AAPS Hackathon 2025.

Schedule at a Glance

Table 3. Key Milestones

Phase	Date & Venue	Notes
Opening Ceremony	**Mon, Oct 13, 2025 – Seminar Hall A**	Launch; sample dataset distributed
Weekend Sprint	**Sat–Sun (dataset Sat 00:00; deadline Sun 18:00)**	Training & test datasets; code + docs + deliverables
Closing Ceremony & Awards	**Thu, Oct 30, 2025 – Seminar Hall B**	Showcases, reflections, felicitation

Learning Outcomes and Skill Development:

Participants demonstrated:

- **Technical proficiency** in data pre-processing, model training, and metric-guided iteration for fraud classification.
- **Reasoned decision-making** through ETHOS prompts, balancing model outputs with responsible action (block/escalate/proceed).
- **Communication skills** via concise demos and documentation suited for evaluation and knowledge transfer.

The **AAPS framing** encouraged students to articulate assumptions, stress-test edge cases, and consider human-in-the-loop oversight—competencies increasingly expected in industry roles dealing with AI-enabled risk and security.

Collaboration and Institutional Impact:

This edition underscored the value of **academia–industry collaboration** between **MITS (Deemed to be University)** and **HuMAINority** in cultivating practice-ready talent. Institutional leadership—**Prof. Joseph X. Ng; Dr. Dinesh K.; Ms. Vijaya Lakshmi; the Management of MITS (Deemed to be University); and Dr. C. Yuvraj, Vice Chancellor**—provided the scaffolding necessary for an ethics-aware, outcomes-driven student experience.

Conclusion

The **AAPS Hackathon 2025 at MITS (Deemed to be University)** successfully translated AAPS principles into a focused, weekend-scale cybersecurity challenge—evidenced by **17 completed projects** out of **40+ submissions** and **60+ registrations**, and by the high-calibre solutions presented by the **winning teams led by Jagadeesh, Mahesh T., and Sai Ganesh Reddy M.** The event strengthened student capabilities in **model-driven fraud detection** and **ethics-guided decision-making**, while deepening **academia–industry ties** with HumAInority.

Guided by the leadership of **Prof. Joseph X. Ng**, **Dr. Dinesh K.**, **Ms. Vijaya Lakshmi**, the **Management**, and **Dr. C. Yuvraj (Vice Chancellor, MITS (Deemed to be University))**, this first edition sets a strong foundation for future cohorts. Looking ahead, the hackathon's format, deliverable rigor, and mentorship model offer a scalable pathway to nurture responsible, domain-aware AI practitioners committed to building trustworthy digital systems.