Industry Connect Program Report

School of Computer Science & Information Technology (SCS&IT)
Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani

About Uttarakhand Open University (UOU)

Uttarakhand Open University (UOU), established in 2005, is the only State Open University in Uttarakhand dedicated to providing flexible, learner-centric education through the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode.

- All programs are recognised and approved by **AICTE, UGC-DEB, and the University Academic Council**.
- UOU offers a wide range of **certificate, diploma, undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs**.
- The university emphasizes **quality education, digital learning, and skill development initiatives**.
- UOU collaborates extensively with **industry, government bodies, and academic institutions** for knowledge sharing and capacity building.

Through its commitment to accessible education and continuous innovation, UOU has become a hub for lifelong learning and professional growth in the region.

School of Computer Science & IT – Overview

The **School of Computer Science & IT (SCS&IT)** at UOU offers innovative programs designed to equip learners with both practical and theoretical expertise in computing, software development, information technology, and cybersecurity.

Programs Offered:

- **Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA)**
- **Master of Computer Applications (MCA)**
- **M.Sc. (Information Technology)**
- **M.Sc. (Cyber Security)**
- **Diploma in IT (DIT)** and **Diploma in Computer Applications (DCA)**
- **Certificate Courses** in Computer Applications, e-Governance, and Cyber Security

The school emphasizes:

- **Industry-aligned curriculum** and practical assignments.
- **Skill development and employability** through projects and emerging technology modules.
- **Research and innovation**, enabling learners to explore areas like AI, Data Science, and Cybersecurity.

With its learner-focused approach, SCS&IT nurtures professionals who are well-prepared to contribute to the knowledge economy.

Introduction to the Industry Connect Program

The **Industry Connect Program** was launched by the School of Computer Science & IT to strengthen the link between academia and industry. It provides students with opportunities to interact with industry experts, understand real-world applications of their academic knowledge, and gain career guidance.

During **July–August 2025**, five impactful lectures were conducted by professionals from diverse domains, ranging from cybersecurity to artificial intelligence and sustainability.

Lecture 1 – 7th July 2025

Topic: Role of Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) in Crime Investigations
Speaker: *Mr. Paras Jangid, Consulting Cybercrime Investigator & CEO, One Step Ahead Cyber Security Academy*

- Covered fundamentals of OSINT, intelligence cycles, and tools like Google Dorking, WHOIS, Shodan, and Hunter.io.
- Case studies highlighted the importance of operational security in intelligence gathering.
- Impact: Provided practical exposure to digital forensics and ethical intelligence practices

Lecture 2 – 21st July 2025

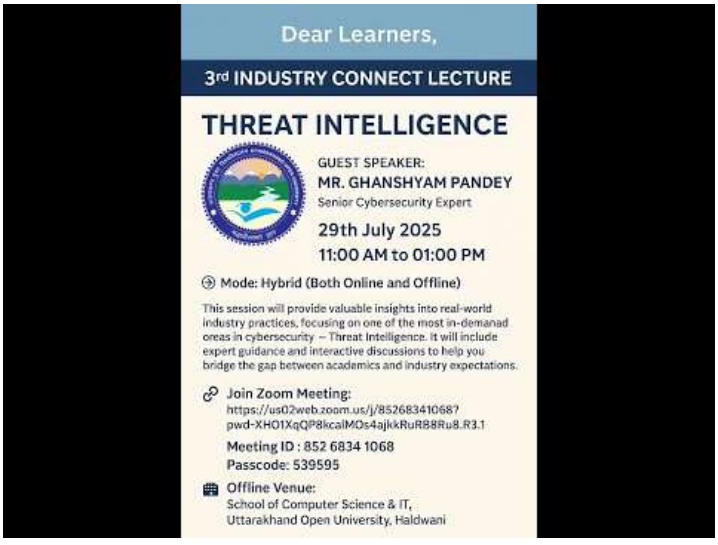
Topic: How to Stay Up-to-Date & Relevant in Cybersecurity
Speaker: *Mr. Bhargav Rathod, Security Analyst, Salesforce*

- Shared continuous learning strategies, role of AI tools, open-source contributions, and certifications.
- Impact: Inspired learners to proactively shape their cybersecurity careers

Lecture 3 – 29th July 2025

Topic: Importance of Threat Intelligence in Cybersecurity
Speaker: *Mr. Ghanshyam Pandey, Technical Lead, Coforge*

- Discussed the cyber threat landscape, phishing, ransomware, dark web activities, and real-world breach case studies.
- Impact: Enhanced understanding of proactive threat detection and response



Lecture 4 – 13th August 2025

Topic: The Evolution of Artificial Intelligence and Its Applications in 2025
Speaker: *Mr. Abhishek Mitra, Vice President, NatWest*

- Traced AI's journey from symbolic reasoning to generative AI.
- Explained applications in healthcare, finance, supply chain, and climate research.

- Emphasized Python as a core AI skill and ethical considerations in AI adoption.
- Impact: Offered futuristic insights and career guidance in AI

Lecture 5 – 30th August 2025

Topic: Business Excellence and Sustainability
Speaker: *Mr. Abhishek Vats, Automobile & Infrastructure Sector Expert (15 years of experience)*

- Discussed the Sustainability Cycle, ESG frameworks, and actionable sustainability practices.
- Encouraged integration of renewable energy, waste reduction, and community upliftment into business models.
- Impact: Motivated learners to think critically about balancing economic growth with environmental and social responsibility

Key Outcomes:

- Exposure to **cybersecurity practices** like OSINT and threat intelligence.
- Career-oriented guidance on **continuous learning and certifications**.
- Futuristic perspectives on **AI and ethical adoption**.
- Practical frameworks for **sustainability in business excellence**.

The Industry Connect Program organized by the School of Computer Science & IT between July and August 2025 proved to be highly enriching for students, faculty, and the institution. The sessions significantly enhanced academic learning by providing students with exposure to real-world applications of their classroom knowledge. Learners explored contemporary case studies such as cybercrime investigations using open-source intelligence, large-scale data breaches in the corporate sector, and the transformative role of artificial intelligence across industries. These discussions not only clarified technical concepts but also encouraged students to critically evaluate ethical issues in areas such as AI adoption and operational security in cybersecurity. From a skill development perspective, the lectures familiarized students with important tools, practices, and frameworks. OSINT techniques, programming in Python for AI, and sustainability frameworks like ESG and UN SDGs were explained with practical relevance. Students also received career-oriented guidance on certifications, project work, and participation in global competitions such as Capture The Flag. The program emphasized the importance of continuous learning and highlighted how proactive engagement in online communities and open-source projects could accelerate career growth.

The program also strengthened the industry readiness of learners. By hearing directly from professionals associated with organizations like Salesforce, NatWest, and Coforge, students were able to connect academic theory with global industry requirements. They gained insights into workplace expectations, emerging trends, and leadership practices in domains such as cybersecurity, AI, and business sustainability.

On an institutional level, the series reinforced UOU's commitment to combining academic rigor with industry relevance. The active participation of experts, along with the enthusiastic response from students and faculty, showcased the university's ability to facilitate meaningful industry–academia collaboration. The recordings of all lectures, uploaded on the university's official YouTube channel, further extended the reach of the program to learners on the SWAYAM platform and beyond, ensuring long-term accessibility.

Faculty members also benefitted from the sessions, as the exposure to current industry practices provided useful input for curriculum design and future academic planning. The lectures highlighted areas for integrating new technologies and practices into teaching, ensuring that the school's programs remain aligned with evolving industry needs.

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