Report on Alumni Lecture Series Organized by ASTRA – The CS Society of SLC

Event Title: Alumni Lecture Series
Date: March 17, 2025
Time: 10:30 AM Onwards
Venue: Seminar Hall, Shyam Lal College (University of Delhi)
Organized by: ASTRA – The CS Society of SLC, in collaboration with IQAC
Faculty Coordinators: Dr. Neelam Dabas, Dr. Leena Singh, Dr. Pranav Dass, Mr. Parveen Kumar
Convenor: Dr. Sushil Kumar
IQAC Coordinator: Prof. Kusha Tiwari
Principal: Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar

Event Overview

ASTRA – The CS Society of Shyam Lal College successfully organized an Alumni Lecture Series featuring esteemed alumni Mr. Naman Jain (Senior Software Developer Team Lead at Persist Ventures) and Mr. Kapil Gulati (Security Consultant at IBM, formerly with HCL and Accenture). The event aimed to provide students with insights into the corporate world, interview preparation strategies, and the perseverance required to secure their first job after multiple attempts.

Key Highlights

1. Inauguration & Welcome

The event began with a formal welcome address by the faculty coordinators, followed by an introduction to ASTRA's mission of bridging academia and industry. The convenor, Dr. Sushil Kumar, emphasized the importance of alumni interactions in shaping students' careers.

2. Session by Mr. Naman Jain

- **Topic:** *"From Rejections to Success: My Journey to Persist Ventures"*

    - Shared his experience of facing 9–10 interview rejections before landing his first role.

    - Highlighted the importance of:

        - Technical Preparation: Mastering DSA, system design, and problem-solving.

        - Soft Skills: Communication, adaptability, and teamwork.

        - Resilience: Learning from feedback and staying motivated.

- o **Advised students to:**
    - ▪ **Focus on niche skills (e.g., cloud computing, AI) to stand out.**
    - ▪ **Leverage platforms like LeetCode and GitHub for practice and visibility.**

3. Session by Mr. Kapil Gulati

- **Topic:** *"Breaking into Cybersecurity: Lessons from IBM, HCL, and Accenture"*
    - o **Discussed his transition from a fresher to a Security Consultant at IBM.**
    - o **Key takeaways:**
        - ▪ **Certifications Matter: Recommended CEH, CISSP, and CompTIA Security+.**
        - ▪ **Networking: How LinkedIn and alumni connections helped him secure referrals.**
        - ▪ **Mock Interviews: Practicing with peers to overcome nervousness.**
    - o **Stressed the value of ethical hacking labs and contributing to open-source projects.**

4. Interactive Q&A

Students asked questions about:

- **Handling interview anxiety.**
- **Balancing higher studies with job preparation.**
- **Negotiating salary packages.**

5. Vote of Thanks

Prof. Kusha Tiwari (IQAC Coordinator) concluded the event by thanking the alumni, faculty, and ASTRA volunteers for their efforts.

Student Feedback

- **"The session was motivational—knowing even successful people faced rejections gave me hope!"**
- **"Learned practical tips to improve my interview performance."**
- **"Never Loose hope".**

Conclusion

The Alumni Lecture Series was a resounding success, aligning with ASTRA's goal of fostering industry-academia collaboration. The insights shared by Mr. Jain and Mr. Gulati will undoubtedly inspire students to persevere, upskill, and approach their careers strategically.

Prepared by:
ASTRA – The CS Society of SLC
Date: March 18, 2025

ATTACHED SHOTS OF EVENT-