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No. 16, South End Road, Bengaluru-560 004

REPORT ON GUEST TALK

Title of the Event	Guest talk
Date	March 11, 2025
Venue	Surana College Autonomous
Organized by	Department of Commerce
Resource Person	Name: Mr. M Irfat Designation: Founder NorthStar Academy Name: Mr. Raj Yellapantula Designation:Talent Development Advisor at Centillion Singapore Email:Raj.y@northstaracad.com Mobile:8809055830
Target Audience	Final Year BCom Students
Report Prepared by	THEJASWINI M

Introduction

On March 11, 2025, the Department of Commerce at Surana College organized an insightful guest lecture for final-year B.Com students to explore career opportunities and additional certifications after graduation. The session featured two distinguished industry experts:

• Mr. M. Irfat – CMA USA, specializing in Finance & Management Accounting

• Mr. Raj Yellapantula – Talent Development Advisor at Centillion Singapore, with expertise in career development and corporate training

The primary objective of this lecture was to **address the challenges** of securing employment with a basic B.Com degree and to highlight the importance of **professional certifications** in enhancing career prospects.

Key Insights from the Lecture

The Need for Additional Certifications

Both speakers emphasized that in today's highly competitive job market, possessing only a B.Com degree may not be sufficient to secure high-paying and stable job



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opportunities. They encouraged students to consider **specialized certifications** that align with their career aspirations.

Insights from Mr. M. Irfat: Certifications for Finance & Accounting Careers

Mr. Irfat highlighted the **difficulties faced by B.Com graduates** in obtaining wellpaying jobs without further professional qualifications. He recommended **certifications** that can enhance employability in finance, taxation, and management accounting, such as:

1. Enrolled Agent (EA)

• A recognized taxation certification, focusing on IRS representation.

• Shorter completion time and cost-effective compared to other financial certifications.

• Provides **career** opportunities in tax consultancy, accounting firms, and corporate tax departments.

2. Certified Management Accountant (CMA)

- Focuses on management accounting and financial decision-making.
- A globally recognized qualification offering careers in financial analysis, cost management, and corporate finance.

• Less expensive and quicker to complete than CPA (Certified Public Accountant), making it a practical alternative for students.

Mr. Irfat also explained that while CPA is an excellent qualification, it requires more time and financial investment, making EA and CMA better options for students seeking quicker career entry.

Insights from Mr. Raj Yellapantula: Expanding Career Paths Beyond Accounting Mr. Yellapantula encouraged students to explore **diverse career options** beyond traditional accounting roles, introducing two **high-demand fields**:

1. Investment Banking

- A dynamic sector involving financial advisory, mergers & acquisitions, and capital markets.
- Requires strong analytical, financial modeling, and problem-solving skills.
- Offers prestigious and well-compensated career opportunities.

2. Management Consulting

- Involves strategic problem-solving to help businesses improve efficiency and operations.
- Requires expertise in business strategy, data analysis, and client engagement.
- Provides opportunities to work with top global consulting firms.

Mr. Yellapantula advised students to develop relevant skills, network with industry professionals, and stay updated on market trends to establish a competitive edge in these fields.

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Key Takeaways from the Session

1. Enhancing Career Prospects

- A basic B.Com degree alone may not be sufficient for high-paying jobs.
- Specialized certifications significantly increase employability.

2. Cost-Effective and Quick Career Growth

- EA and CMA are affordable, globally recognized certifications that can be completed in a short time.
- These qualifications offer high-demand career opportunities in taxation, finance, and management accounting.

3. Exploring Non-Traditional Career Paths

- Apart from accounting roles, investment banking and management consulting provide lucrative opportunities.
- Students should build critical thinking, analytical, and leadership skills to succeed in these domains.

4. The Power of Networking and Industry Awareness

- Staying updated with industry trends and connecting with professionals is essential for career success.
- Continuous learning and skill development help students stay ahead in the job market.

Conclusion

The guest lecture on "Additional Courses After B.Com" proved to be an eye-opening experience for the students. The insights shared by Mr. M. Irfat and Mr. Raj Yellapantula provided students with practical guidance on career planning and professional development.

The session reinforced the importance of specialized certifications, particularly EA and CMA, as cost-effective and time-efficient alternatives for students seeking career advancement in finance and taxation. Furthermore, discussions on investment banking and management consulting introduced students to alternative career paths beyond traditional accounting roles.

Overall, this lecture served as a valuable learning experience, encouraging students to proactively enhance their qualifications and prepare for successful careers after graduation.

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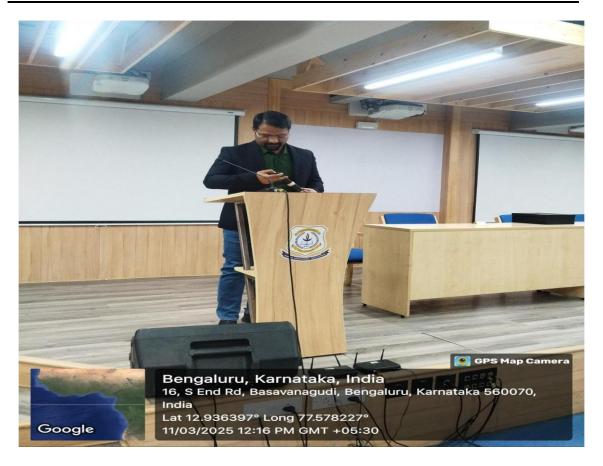
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Mr. M Irfat

CMA USA, Finance and Management Accounting Institute of Management Accountant



Raj Yellapantula

Talent development advisor -Centillion Singapore



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